Gal 5 S. 6.

A

TOUR

FROM

LONDON TO PETERSBURGH,

FROM THENCE TO

MOSCOW,

AND RETURN TO

LONDON BY WAY OF COURLAND, POLAND, GERMANY AND HOLLAND.

BY JOHN RICHARD.

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MDCCLXXX.

FH
MVSEVM
BRITANNICVM

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF STAMFORD.

MY LORD,

I MOST humbly intreat your Lordſhip to pardon the liberty I now take, in dedicating the following *Tour* to your Lordſhip.

The original motive in dedications was certainly, my Lord, endeavouring to ſhelter the author from the malevolence of critics, under the wing and ſanction of thoſe who were conſidered, by the public, as perſons whoſe judgment and virtue entitled them to that prerogative.

It has, however, my Lord, too often happened, that the author and the public have differed in ideas; and the laboured panegyric of the author has been treated with contempt, becauſe fictitious: to decorate with imaginary virtues, is ſatire, not panegyric; ridicule, not compliment.

In this reſpect, my Lord, I muſt eſteem myſelf ſingularly fortunate, as the world is already convinced of your Lordſhip's virtues and character; nor can I add to the high opinion they have of your Lordſhip, by any weak attempt at flattery.

This general opinion, my Lord, cannot be built on partiality; ſince, whether we conſider your Lordſhip as a ſenator, or in a domeſtic line, your Lordſhip ſhines with equal luſtre. In the

the ſenate truly *free*, unwarped by courtly ſunſhine or licentiouſneſs; equally a friend to your King and Country—but yet not a ſlave to miniſters! Zealous to maintain the juſt equilibrium between prerogative and liberty, and, with all moderate men, lamenting the preſent unhappy diviſions.

In a moral and domeſtic life, your Lordſhip is a model to mankind.—It has often been ſaid, my Lord, *that Virtue is its own reward*; this truth is clearly evinced in your Lordſhip.—Happy in a moſt amiable family, they ſeem to derive their bliſs from you. May your mutual felicity be long uninterrupted; and may your illuſtrious progeny, by the judicious education they receive, and the bright examples ſet before them, become, as you,

my Lord, truly ornamental to their country.

With all humility and respect,

I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's devoted

Obedient humble servant,

JOHN RICHARD.

ADDRESS

TO THE

READER.

IT has become a faſhion with every traveller to publiſh his Tour, and the ſucceſs ſome of thoſe publications have met with, has, as might be expected, cauſed the public to be burthened with an infinite number of puerile and futile publications, which the preſs has literally groaned under for ſome years.

The ſucceeding letters were written by the author to a friend in London, without being then deſigned for publication. Were a writer invariably to aſſign the real cauſe of publiſhing his works, it would not, perhaps, prove the

the moſt forcible recommendation of his production. Suffice it, therefore, only to ſay, that vanity, he flatters himſelf, is not the motive, and that he can only recommend it as founded on perſonal knowledge, and ocular demonſtration.

He indulges himſelf in the opinion, that the following ſheets will not only be of utility to thoſe who may propoſe making the ſame tour, but that alſo ſome knowledge may be derived to the curious, deſirous of acquiring real information of countries leſs frequented by travellers than the more ſouthern climes of Europe.

Though this Tour was made a few years ſince, the author, on peruſal, cannot diſcover that any material addition can be made to it; but, on the

contrary, he is happy in finding, from the information of ſeveral Ruſſian gentlemen now in England for the benefit of education, (at the Empreſs's expence) that they coincide with the author's ſentiments in almoſt every reſpect.

The ſcholaſtic improvement that muſt neceſſarily reſult from the inſtruction theſe young gentlemen will receive, may probably tend to diſperſe that cloud, which ſtill overwhelms all attempts at literary refinement.

With regard to the nautical ſtate of Ruſſia, the author ſtill retains his former idea; being fully convinced, that, for the reaſons aſſigned in the following ſheets, the Ruſſians will not, for ſome ages, become formidable as a naval power.

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A TOUR

A

TOUR

FROM

LONDON TO RUSSIA.

LETTER I.

SIR, Elſineur.

AGREEABLE to the requeſt you made at my departure, I commence my correſpondence from the firſt port I have reached in my intended tour.

I arrived here after a tolerable paſſage of nine days, during which time nothing remarkable happened; I could not however, without concern, view the prodigious number of French and

Dutch fiſhing boats that ſwarm on our coaſts, robbing us as it were of our natural property; various ſchemes have been planned, and many projects formed, to revive a branch of commerce ſo unaccountably loſt. As yet, they ſeem to have failed, by what means, I will not pretend to determine.

Elſineur is a ſmall, but a neat town, ſituate on the iſland of Zealand; an old caſtle, called Cronenberg, commands the paſſage, and all ſhips, except men of war, are obliged to lower their ſails, and come to an anchor. There is a cuſtom or toll levied here by the King of Denmark on the reſpective cargoes, both paſſing and repaſſing, and this duty forms a conſiderable part of the Daniſh revenue. This duty is calculated by the bills of loading, which

are

are here produced, and encreaſes annually by the prodigious trade of Peterſburgh: this duty, though now ſo conſiderable, was originally eſtabliſhed for the purpoſe of defraying the expences of buoys and light-houſes, which meeting with no oppoſition from other nations, it has inſenſibly become a tribute.

The channel, or as it is uſually called, the Sound, that ſeparates the Daniſh from the Swediſh ſhore, is nearly three miles over. Charles the twelfth paſſed it, when froze, with his whole army and artillery.

Being wind bound, I had an opportunity of ſeeing Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark; which is about twelve miles from Elſineur.

'Tis a clean handſome city, although not very large, and the uſual reſidence of the Daniſh royal family. The court is brilliant, although not numerous, and ſeveral of the nobility have a turn to literature; but arbitrary governments ever fetter genius, and damp inquiries.

Mr. Moleſworth, in his account of Denmark, gives the Danes this ſingular character; "I never knew, ſays he, a "country where the minds of the "people were more upon a level, as "we find none of extraordinary parts "or qualifications, or excellent in "particular ſtudies or arts, ſo we "ſee no enthuſiaſts, madmen, natural "fools, or whimſical people; a cer-"tain equality of underſtanding reigns "among them, every one plods on in "the

" the ordinary beaten track of com-
" mon ſenſe."

If this character is juſtly founded, it forms certainly a ſtriking contraſt to the manners of our own country; where ſurely enthuſiaſm, credulity, folly, and whim, form a principal part of the character of its inhabitants.

It may be a doubt with ſpeculatiſts, to which nation preference ought to be given in that reſpect; whether men of extraordinary abilities, jumbled with the foibles above mentioned, form a more envied character than the more even diſpoſitions of the Danes.

The trade of Denmark is not very conſiderable; they have a ſmall ſhare in the Eaſt-India trade; the greateſt part of the tea they import is run into

Scotland and other places. Their navy though not numerous, is kept in excellent order, and their troops are under the moſt exact diſcipline.

Since the baniſhment of the late unhappy Queen of Denmark, French politicks prevail in the cabinet,* and nothing but fear, prevent the Danes from reſenting the ſpirited behaviour of the Britiſh monarch.

* The political ſyſtem of Sweden ſeems now changing, the jealouſy between that court and Ruſſia ſeems to ſubſide; this being the caſe, Denmark has more to fear, as thoſe two powers would certainly overwhelm her, in caſe of a rupture; nothing but a ſtrict alliance with France can poſſibly protect her, as England will naturally coincide with Ruſſia and Sweden,

LETTER II.

SIR, Peterſburgh.

SAILING from Elſineur, you have a fine view of Copenhagen. The gulph of Finland is eſteemed a moſt dangerous paſſage, by reaſon of the great number of rocks and iſlands interſperſed in the gulph; a conſiderable number of veſſels are annually loſt on the iſland of Bornholm, and other ſmaller iſlands. It is obſerved, that in the greateſt part of the Baltick, the water is not ſalt, but brackiſh, and not frequented by fiſh.

At the diſtance of ten or twelve miles, Cronſlot or Cronſtadt appears, a beautiful city, by reaſon of the houſes and buildings being painted white; but

I was miſerably diſappointed on landing, as what I had conceived ſuch a magnificent idea of were mere ruins, uninhabited.

Cronſlot is an iſland about fifteen miles weſt of St. Peterſburgh, at the bottom of the gulph of Finland; it is totally barren, the inhabitants are chiefly ſoldiers and ſailors, who are employed in the repairs of the dock and other naval affairs.

There is a ſpacious baſon here for ſhips, that will hold three hundred veſſels, where they are ſecure from all winds; the dry dock is of prodigious extent, being near ſeven hundred fathoms in length, and forty feet deep. This dock is capable of receiving more than twelve ſhips of the line.

Peter

Peter the Great once propoſed to make Cronſtadt the ſeat of trade, and accordingly large magazines were built. This project however was dropped.

There are no accommodations for travellers, and indeed there is little occaſion, the crews of the merchantmen reſiding on board, and paſſengers are impatient to depart for St. Peterſburgh.

This is, however, attended with ſome difficulty, for, on landing, I was aſked for my paſſport, which, not having, I remained in cuſtody that night, and the next morning went in a ſmall boat to Peterſburgh, under the direction and in the cuſtody of two Ruſſian grenadiers, who conducted me to one of the chanceries, where, on ſigning what I did not underſtand, I was diſcharged.

I can-

I cannot omit a circumſtance, which, although trifling, gave me no favourable idea of arbitrary governments. During my ſtay at Elſineur, I had purchaſed ſome large oyſters, theſe I had deſigned as preſents to ſome of the Engliſh factory at Peterſburgh; I found myſelf however miſtaken, my oyſters were ſent to the cuſtom-houſe, and intended for the Empreſs, as being in better condition than uſual; I was indeed told, that I might fix my own price, and that the Empreſs had the right of refuſal of every article imported into her dominions. This did not anſwer my purpoſe, and hearing that the director of the cuſtoms was full as fond of good oyſters as the Empreſs, I compounded with him, preſented him with a third of them for his own uſe, and ſaved the reſt. Some of thoſe oyſters were ſent to Moſcow as preſents, by land, although

the diſtance is four hundred and eighty-eight Engliſh miles.

The city of St. Peterſburgh is partly ſituated on ſome iſlands in the mouth of the river Neva, and on the ſeveral continents of Ingria and Carelia, in ſixty degrees north latitude.

It was built by Czar Peter Alexowitz in a moraſs, at the expence of two hundred thouſand lives, and was originally intended as a barrier againſt the Swedes, the natural enemies of Ruſſia; it is of very conſiderable extent, and being divided by the Neva, which is nearly half a mile wide here, and alſo interſected by canals, it has the appearance of ſeveral diſtinct cities.

The river at Peterſburgh is deep and rapid, and the ice from the lake Ladoga comes

comes down in ſuch ſhoals, at the breaking of the froſt, that there is no poſſibility of having any other bridge than one of large boats, which is taken away at the approach of the froſt.

Peter was ſo intent on promoting every thing that might coincide with his earneſt wiſh of becoming a maritime power, that he would not conſent to any bridge being built here, although the chanceries and public offices are chiefly on one ſide of the Neva, and his palace on the other; nay, he would not even allow the uſe of oars, but obliged thoſe who had occaſion to croſs the river, to uſe ſails, by which ſeveral perſons of quality were drowned.

The chanceries, as they are called, form a conſiderable building, under which is a handſome piazza; you paſs from

from one office to the other through the whole; a kind of truncheon is ſtill ſhewn, that Peter uſually carried, and which he laid on the ſhoulders of his commiſſioners and clerks, without ceremony, when he obſerved them inattentive to their duty.

LET-

LETTER III.

SIR, Peterſburgh.

NOTWITHSTANDING the endeavours of Peter the Great to introduce men of learning and ſcience into his dominions, he did not live long enough to fulfil, in any degree, his plan; and in truth, thoſe who went from England and other places on the ſtrength of promiſes, found themſelves miſerably diſappointed, and but few remained there.

During the reign of the Empreſs Ann, foreigners were countenanced at court; but on the revolution which brought Elizabeth on the throne, the Ruſſians became eager to aſſume their former manners, and foreigners were held in great contempt.

During

During her reign ſcience ſlept, not a ſingle volume could be imported into her dominions, but it was to be peruſed by officers appointed for that purpoſe, which rendered the importation almoſt impoſſible.

When Elizabeth came to the throne, by the revolution effected by Leſtock, who was himſelf baniſhed by her afterwards (this circumſtance is not to be wondered at, for although we approve of the treaſon, the traitor is uſually deteſted), ſhe publiſhed a decree by which ſhe aboliſhed the puniſhment of death on any account, or for any crime, which gave encouragement to robbers and murderers; this was a political ſtroke to bind the lower claſs of perſons to her intereſt.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth was a perſon of an amorous turn, and ſhe indulged her paſſions without ceremony or reſtraint, nor was her choice always from the nobility, perſons of very mean rank had ſometimes the good fortune to pleaſe her.

Her diſpoſition being known, all the foreign courts made a point of ſending as their ambaſſadors, men, whoſe perſons and addreſs might aſſiſt their negotiations. The Britiſh court recalled the blunt Tyrawley, to ſend the gallant Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, of amorous memory, who, if fame miſtakes not, was at leaſt as ſucceſsful as his brother ambaſſadors.

Among the foreign miniſters who pretended to have been honoured with the good graces of Elizabeth, was the Marquis de la Chetardie, the French miniſter.

miniſter. His appearance and ſuite were ſo brilliant, that he was uſually called the Blazing Star. The natural vanity of the Frenchman overſhot the diſcretion of the Ambaſſador; he was indiſcreet. The ſtern Tyrawley, envious of the reception he met with at court, watched him cloſely. It was ſaid means were found to diſpatch a courier who was going to France. A letter was found, in which the Marquis talked of favours in ſuch unreſerved terms, that he was directly recalled.

Although Elizabeth indulged her paſſion for gallantry to extremes, it however appears that ſhe had ſome occaſional qualms, and ſhe was ſtudious to avoid any object that might remind her of mortality, for this reaſon all mourning was prohibited, nor were any monuments or grave ſtones permitted.

The Empreſs Ann, had an unaccountable paſſion to hear the croaking of frogs, and had, under her chamber window, a piece of water well ſtored with thoſe creatures.

Notwithſtanding the numerous military eſtabliſhments in this country, the revolutions have happened with little or no bloodſhed. The one that brought Elizabeth on the throne was entirely brought about by two Engliſhmen; in the laſt, no one loſt his life but the unfortunate Prince himſelf.

In deſpotic governments, the depoſition of a Prince and his death, are often ſynonimous terms; it happened ſo with the late Emperor; a cholic carried him out of the world in a few days. Some indeed have pretended that the diſorder was more than natural.

The

The Emperor was a Prince of an open, generous diſpoſition, emulous to imitate the conduct of the preſent King of Pruſſia. He began ſome regulations with too much zeal and haſte. It is well known, that after his death a letter was found among his papers from the King of Pruſſia, adviſing him by no means to attempt ſuch rapid changes.

To his death ſucceeded that of the unfortunate Prince Ivan, who at the revolution of Elizabeth, being then an infant, had been ſhut up in a convent near Wologda. It is doubtful whether he knew himſelf to be a Prince, and his death can only be thought extraordinary, at that juncture, by thoſe who have no idea of arbitrary governments.

A ſubaltern officer with ſcarcely an hundred men, came to the convent

where the Prince was confined and demanded him; the officer under whoſe care he was, gravely anſwers, he will not deliver him; a ſlight ſkirmiſh enſues—the officer then deſtroys the Prince, and offers his body to the ſuppoſed rebels. This ends the matter, and there remained no competitor to the throne.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER IV.

SIR, Peterſburgh.

AS I purpoſe to give you ſome obſervations on the trade and commerce of Ruſſia, I ſhall very briefly trace it from the firſt diſcovery by Captain Chancellor in 1553.

It was in the laſt year of Edward the Sixth, that a ſociety of Engliſh merchants were incorporated by the name of the Merchants Adventurers for the Diſcovery of Lands, &c. unknown; they fitted out three ſhips, the Admiral, commanded by Sir Hugh Willoughby; the Edward Bonadventure, Captain Chancellor, and the Bona Confidentia,

Captain Duforth. They ſailed from Deptford the 11th of May, 1553; they were ſeparated in a ſtorm on the coaſt of Norway; the Admiral and Confidentia were froze up on the coaſt of Lapland, and all the crew periſhed; but Captain Chancellor, more fortunate, diſcovered the bay of St. Nicholas or Archangel, and from thence went by land to Moſcow, where John Baſilowitz, or Vaſiliwitz reſided as ſovereign, and concluded a treaty of commerce with him.

An Ambaſſador arrived from Ruſſia in the year 1556, and made his entry in London with great ſtate, being attended by a hundred and forty merchants of the Ruſſian Company, with their ſervants in one livery. He was met alſo by the Lord Montague and three

three hundred horſe, by order of the court, a little way from the city, and by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen on horſeback at Smithfield bars, and the Ambaſſador rode between the Lord Mayor and Lord Montague through the city, to an apartment in Fenchurch-ſtreet.

The Engliſh enjoyed the ſole benefit of the Ruſſian trade for about thirty years, when the Dutch came in for a ſhare, and at this time all nations are nearly on the ſame footing.

The balance of trade is greatly in favour of Ruſſia, their imports bearing no proportion to their exports; the immenſe quantities of hemp, flax, iron, timber, and other naval articles, exported from thence to all parts of the

world, is a continual ſource of wealth to that empire*.

There is no public bank or government paper-money. It will be time enough for government to think of that reſource when the reality is evaporated. In England, an extraordinary expence of a few millions is hardly perceivable, by the manœuvres of paper-money; in Ruſſia the caſe is otherwiſe, for, in the late war with the Turks, by the ſums ſent out of the country to ſupport their army, exchange fell twenty per cent. that is to ſay, that the pur-

* In the year 1745, Mr. Hanway computed the exports from St. Peterſburgh were three millions of roubles; in 1750, the exports were four millions, near 900,000 pounds ſterling, their imports then were judged to be two millions; ſince that period their exports have increaſed, not only in quantity, but by the advance in price, to a very conſiderable amount, but their imports have not increaſed in proportion.

chaſers

chaſers of goods in Ruſſia, giving bills in the uſual manner on Amſterdam, paid only forty-two or forty-three ſtivers there for every rouble, in lieu of fifty or fifty-two ſtivers, the uſual courſe. This was a direct loſs to Ruſſia, as it lowered the value of their goods.

The merchants in Peterſburgh having no bank or bankers to reſort to for diſcounting, are under the neceſſity of adopting another mode of raiſing money, which is, to eſtabliſh a reſource or fund in Amſterdam, by procuring a credit of ten or twenty thouſand pounds with four or five different houſes in Holland, they are enabled thus to carry on buſineſs by drawing on them, thoſe in Amſterdam redraw generally on a partner in London, which moſt houſes in Ruſſia have; ſo that not only money

is raiſed, but a conſiderable time alſo obtained for payment.

Not only ſpecie cannot be exported from Ruſſia, but the very cuſtoms paid on imports and exports, muſt be paid in foreign ſpecie, which is taken in payment at an under value and directly coined. This amounts to 600,000 ſilver rix-dollars.

This method of ſecuring the coin appears plauſible, but it is only an imaginary benefit, and one of thoſe vulgar errors not totally exploded in ſome parts of Europe; for it is evident, that where the balance of trade, or in other words, the imports and exports differ, the balance muſt be paid in ſpecie, there being no other means or medium. The occaſion the Ruſſian government had for money in Poland and other places, turned

turned the ſcale of exchange in favour of the exporters, who knowing that bills on Hollaud muſt be had by the government, took the occaſion of refuſing to give or paſs bills, but at a reduced exchange, or in other words, by paying fewer ſtivers in Amſterdam for each rouble than uſual.

Excluſive of the mere trade carried on between the ſeveral ports in the Baltick, the Engliſh and Dutch enjoy three parts of the whole Ruſſian trade, the imports to France and Spain being carried in Dutch bottoms.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER V.

SIR, Peterſburgh.

NOTWITHSTANDING the immenſe trade of Ruſſia, it is remarkable that there are few or no Ruſſians who may be properly termed merchants, nor are there any Ruſſian factors eſtabliſhed at the different ports in Europe, except one houſe lately at Conſtantinople.

To account for what may ſeem ſo ſingular, it may be neceſſary to conſider the different claſſes in which the ſubjects of Ruſſia may be divided.

This

This I think may be thus arranged:

Nobility and Gentry, which includes the Military.
Clergy.
Law and Phyſic.
Merchants or Shopkeepers,
And Peaſants.

The nobility and gentry are exceeding numerous, as all the children are noble, and the property not going to the eldeſt, as in England, the patrimony becomes divided; many Princes or Knez are ſtarving, and even work as labourers, or are ſoldiers; for their pride is ſuch, that nothing could induce them to obtain a living as a ſhopkeeper or dealer; thoſe that have intereſt get into the army, although the pay is ſmall, that of a Captain but about forty pounds per annum. The ſubordination in the army

army is ſuch, that ſhould a Lieutenant and a Captain meet on the road as travellers in ſome deplorable hut, the Lieutenant muſt ſtand until he has his ſuperior's leave to ſit.

Dreſs, the Ruſſian gentry are fond of to an extreme; from ſavages in the laſt century, they are now compleat petit-maitres. France furniſhes them with faſhions and baubles to a conſiderable amount annually.

In point of education, the military ſcience is the moſt cultivated. In abſolute governments the army takes the lead in every thing; by the prevailing argument of a muſket ſubmiſſion is obtained; the regulation and diſcipline of that army, will ever be a primary object in thoſe governments.

There is an academy of ſciences in Peterſburgh, the profeſſors are uſually foreigners, and paid by government, and ſome valuable papers have been publiſhed, but the Ruſſians themſelves make but little progreſs in literature, not having the opportunity of a previous education, there being no ſchool or college eſtabliſhed. The gentry have indeed, generally, a French tutor or a tutoreſs for their children, who are often as illiterate as the pupils.

About twenty years ſince, there was however a kind of college eſtabliſhed at Moſcow, by a kind of voluntary ſubſcription, though it was hinted to certain perſons that it was expected they would contribute. An adventurer, known here by the feigned title of the Chevalier Maubert, was at the head of it; ſome ſprightly French valets came in for ſome

ſome of the profeſſorſhips, and the whole of it made but a very indifferent ſeminary*.

However, the late wars having occaſioned the gentry to travel, it has in ſome meaſure opened their ideas, and given them more reliſh for polite arts, and a few tranſlations have been made, but the whole is not conſiderable.

* It is remarkable, that although at this period there was no public ſeminaries or college at Moſcow, yet Peter had eſtabliſhed one there, wherein were no leſs than ſeven hundred ſtudents, who were taught mathematics and other ſciences, but at his death the eſtabliſhment dropped, and his ſucceſſors took as much pains to remain ignorant, as he had taken to improve them. The great epocha of obſtinacy, in this reſpect, was the reign of Elizabeth, for at the revolution which brought her in, foreigners were looked on with a jealous eye, and every means taken to get rid of them.

As to the clergy, they are truly contemptible, all their knowledge consisting in being able to repeat the liturgy or service, none are allowed to preach but at court, their incomes are trifling, and they are as slovenly as mendicant friars.

The situation of the clergy being such, the nobility and gentry find no allurements, as in other countries, of income or consequence.

Law stands much in the same predicament with the church; during the present reign a code has been attempted, and in a course of time, some reformation may happen; suits are carried on here through the medium of chancery, and he who has most interest, will probably have a considerable advantage over his adversary. There are

no judges or juries, as in England; the directors of the reſpective chanceries determine. Formerly they did not refuſe preſents, perhaps at this time, the caſe may be altered. The official buſineſs is carried on by a kind of lawyers, who may be hired by the year, at a ſmall expence, and indeed many keep one in the houſe for the purpoſe of attending the chanceries. There are no orators or counſellors to give opinions, or plead; in truth, as the laws of Ruſſia are continually varied, ſuch gentlemen are uſeleſs. In the late reign the decrees, or new laws, were affixed to the city gates, ſomething in the nature of ballads againſt a wall, for the information of the people. It will eaſily be conceived, that the ſons of the gentry find no eſtabliſhment in the law.

LET-

LETTER VI.

SIR, Peterſburgh.

PHYSIC is a ſtudy the Ruſſians have no fancy to, it would degrade the gentleman, and the vulgar have no opportunity to ſtudy it. Phyſicians are therefore ſcarce, and generally Scotch. Twenty years ago there were not half a dozen in the city of Moſcow, which is half as large as London, and but two apothecaries; men-midwives, or as they are more emphatically called, accoucheurs, are as yet unknown there. It has been a matter of doubt with ſome, whether more lives are loſt by the interference of the faculty than are ſaved; as the celebrated Sir Roger de Coverley

obſerved on another occaſion, " much " may be ſaid on both ſides," perhaps were there none practiſed but ſuch as were duly qualified, mankind would receive a benefit, but if we include the empiricks which ſwarm, I am inclined to think mankind might ſpare the whole.

The next claſs of men are the merchants or ſhopkeepers; thoſe I term merchants are perſons who come in winter from various parts of the country to Peterſburgh, to contract with the foreign merchants for the delivery of hemp, or other articles, againſt the ſpring. It is uſual on a contract to advance them the whole, or a part at leaſt, of the money, although they may reſide ſome hundreds of miles up the country, and ſometimes it happens that they never return or ſend the goods.

The

The peaſants are, in truth, a miſerable ſet of creatures, being generally ſlaves to the reſpective owners of the lands they dwell on. When an eſtate is diſpoſed of, the value is eſtimated by the number of villages and ſouls on it, as they and their poſterity go in the purchaſe. Some noblemen are ſuppoſed to have a hundred thouſand ſouls on their eſtates.

Such being the diviſion of the different claſſes in which the Ruſſians may be deſcribed, it will appear, that from no one of them can be found perſons, who by their education, or ſituation, are qualified to be merchants, either at home or abroad.

Their ſuperſtition in matters of religion is another obſtacle to their eſtabliſhing themſelves in other countries,

as they would not think themſelves in a ſtate of ſalvation, deprived of their prieſts and religious ceremonies.

Were the Ruſſians, however, inclined to ſettle in other kingdoms, they are not at liberty to do it; no one, either Ruſſians or foreigners, can quit the kingdom without a paſſport, which is obtained with much trouble and expence.

If a Ruſſian obtains leave to quit the kingdom, ſecurity muſt be given for his return in a limited time.

The ſame miſtaken policy which induces the Ruſſia government to puniſh with death thoſe who attempt to ſend a ſingle piece of coin out of the kingdom, cauſes this abſurd reſtriction. Peter the Great forced his ſubjects to travel; his ſucceſſors in a manner prohibited it.

Since

Since the late peace with the Turks, the Ruſſians are endeavouring to open a trade by the Black Sea, and have eſtabliſhed a houſe at Conſtantinople, who have an excluſive privilege for carrying on the propoſed trade, but the granting an excluſive privilege is certainly a manifeſt abſurdity, and will defeat the whole deſign.

'Tis a rivalſhip in commerce that will promote it, and on the contrary, monopolies are the bane of induſtry and improvement.

It may be a matter of doubt, whether the increaſe of dominion is really an advantage to the mother country; one thing is certain, that an increaſe of dominion will ever occaſion new taxes to ſupport the new acquiſitions, and every new tax will occaſion an increaſe

of the price of labour and conveniences of life.

I am inclined to think, it would be more prudent to cultivate the waſte lands in the mother country, than to ſeek for new deſarts abroad. Ruſſia is of that extent that probably it will never be half peopled, new conqueſt to them, will therefore be but incumbrances.

LET-

LETTER VII.

SIR, Peterſburgh.

MR. HANWAY, in his remarks on the Britiſh Factory, obſerves, " that " they, as may be obſerved in all ſmall " ſocieties, contribute much to each " others amuſement, and are now be- " come ſober and virtuous, as well as " more elegant in manners, than in " times paſt, when they were debauched " and low in their pleaſures; and tho' " calumny and detraction ſeem to be the " more peculiar growth of ſuch ſocie- " ties, it does not reign amongſt them " in any remarkable degree."

Mr. Hanway himſelf is a gentleman of remarkable ſobriety, whether his example

example there brought about this very extraordinary reformation I will not pretend to determine. It is however unlucky, that Mr. Hanway had no ſucceſs in his attempts to deſtroy the ſpirit of calumny and detraction which, by his obſervation, reigns among them.

For my part, I am inclined to think, that the factors who preceded thoſe Mr. Hanway compliments on their ſobriety, were to the full as ſober and virtuous as their ſucceſſors. I ſuppoſe that the corruption of manners is ſo prevalent in this age, as to deſerve no compliments at the expence of our anceſtors. That the claſhing of intereſts may occaſion a ſhyneſs between rivals in commerce is not ſurprizing, but that calumny and detraction ſhould be laid to the charge of gentlemen in that ſituation of life, is, I believe, ſaying too much.

The

The Engliſh Factory reſide chiefly in a line on the banks of the Neva; their houſes are large, ornamented on the outſide in the Italian ſtile, which is the prevailing taſte in Ruſſia.

Carriages here are much in uſe, the loweſt claſs of people will ſcarcely walk, indeed the carriages are not very elegant, a few ſhillings will purchaſe one.

Although the Britiſh merchants are in good eſteem, the Ruſſians are ſo fond of title and precedence, that the loweſt gentleman eſteems himſelf infinitely ſuperior to the firſt merchant. When the court gives balls on public occaſions, it is uſual to give ſeparate entertainments to different claſſes; to the firſt claſs of nobility, then the ſecond, the military follows, and the merchants laſt. Such

diſtinctions

diſtinctions are ſurely abſurd in a commercial ſtate.

The court of Peterſburgh is numerous and brilliant. Fine cloaths are the predominant paſſion of the Ruſſians, both male and female. Jewels are much in uſe, 'tis the only market for large jewels blemiſhed, as they regard more the ſize than the quality.

The Ruſſian women are generally fair, they generally paint from the higheſt to the loweſt; their teeth are white and even, owing, probably, to their drinking cold liquors only. However ſo late as in the year 1714, it was ſtill cuſtomary for the Ruſſian women to ſtain or die their teeth black, they pretending that white teeth only became blackmoors and monkeys. If women are not ſo amiable in Ruſſia as in ſome other

other countries, 'tis not from the artificial charms they make uſe of, ſince that cuſtom is almoſt univerſal, but from their education being ſo extremely neglected. The nobility have indeed ſometimes a French governeſs, but they have no idea of fine works for amuſement, or of reading for improvement.

They are taught ſubmiſſion to their huſbands, and in general interfere very little with domeſtic concerns.

There is a diſtinction made in the head dreſs of maidens and married women, which I fancy would not be approved of in England by the married ladies. When a perſon is married, the hair which hang in ringlets, or was ornamented with ribbands, is then covered with a kind of ſilk cap, reſembling a Scot's bonnet, they thinking it indecent

in

in a married woman to continue the maiden dreſs.

Courtſhip in this country ſeems not to be ſo refined as with you. Inclination, I believe, is not always conſulted on the lady's ſide, nor have parents reſigned up altogether their authority. Circulating libraries, thoſe ſeminaries of gallantry, are as yet unknown here, nor are love letters the ſtudy of beaus or belles. Intrigues are therefore leſs frequent than with you; there is no taking a trip to Scotland and laughing at the old ones. In ſhort, love ſeems here a paſſion of inſtinct, and if Cupid's wings are ever clipped, or his dart blunted, 'tis in Ruſſia.

LETTER VIII.

SIR, Moſcow.

I SET out from St. Peterſburgh in the month of October, which proved rainy and diſagreeable, in a coach I purchaſed that had no ſeats, but a mattreſs or featherbed being ſpread on the bottom, it renders it very commodious for travelling. I engaged with a carrier for twelve roubles, which is about two pounds ten ſhillings ſterling, to drive me with three horſes, which they uſually do abreaſt, and which journey he performed in thirteen days; the diſtance is 488 Engliſh miles.

There is nothing particular to be obſerved in this long journey, nor any cities but Novogorod and Tweer. The firſt city is large, though meanly built, nor is there any kind of accommodation for travellers; the churches are numerous, adorned with many cupolas, which are frequently gilt with ducat gold, and when the ſun ſhines has a fine effect. Tweer is a ſmaller city, on the banks of the Volga, and ſituated on the ſide of a hill. I paſſed through a village called Waldai, which is a ſettlement made by Peter the Great of Saxon priſoners of war; the diſtinction between them and the Ruſſians is ſtill viſible; there is the remains of Saxon gallantry among them; the chief employment of the women is to go in pairs through the ſtreets, to diſpoſe of cakes to travellers; their dreſs, though mean, denotes a turn for gallantry, and

although they go in pairs, through an affected modeſty, they are compleat courtezans.

This journey I found extremely diſagreeable, having never entered a hut during the thirteen days and nights; nor could I, in this whole diſtance, diſcover a barber, or any one that could ſhave me; my guide in the bargain, could neither underſtand me nor I him; and had I been taken ill, or broken a limb, I might as well have enquired for the Emperor of Morocco as a medical gentleman.

LETTER IX.

SIR, Moſcow.

MOSCOW lies in the latitude of 55 degrees odd minutes, 38 degrees eaſtward of London; it is ſituate in a delightful plain; the river Moſcowa running through the city renders the ſituation exceeding pleaſant.

The city extends in length ſeven miles, and near five in width, but neither the houſes or inhabitants bear a proportion to the extent of ground it ſtands on.

It is divided by walls and gates, and in one of the quarters, called the Slabode,

bode, foreigners reſide, who are not numerous, and are chiefly Dutch or German mechanics.

The ſhops are in one part of the town, under piazzas of great extent, ſo that thoſe who have occaſion for proviſions or merchandize, repair there at certain hours, moſt of the ſhopkeepers having dwellings at other parts of the city.

Since the trade of Archangel has been transferred to Peterſburgh, and the reſidence of the court been uſually there, the trade of Moſcow has conſiderably decreaſed; there are, however, ſome of the nobility who reſide here, and ſeveral fabrics of linen are here eſtabliſhed; the moſt capital of which is that of Mr. Tameſz. Peter the Great induced the father of the preſent poſſeſſor to

eſtabliſh this manufactory, by ſeveral extraordinary privileges, and when he met in the ſtreets of Moſcow any idle fellows, he would without ceremony ſend them to the fabric, where they became the abſolute property of the owner. This fabric has ſo increaſed, that it contains near five hundred looms for weaving various kinds of linen, the whole of which is ſent to England on commiſſion.

The cathedral is a large ſtone ſtructure, without any merit or beauty, it is however ſaid, the artichect was blinded when finiſhed, that he might be diſabled from building one of ſuperior beauty; and in a kind of vault lays the famous great bell, the bottom diameter of which is twenty-two feet four inches, and the height twenty-one feet four inches, the weight is one hundred

and

and ninety-eight tons two hundred and a quarter; in raiſing it, when caſt, the tackle gave way, and a piece is broke from it ſufficiently large for a perſon to enter the bell through the chaſm. The method of ringing bells here is ſingular, they are uſually hung at the church door between two pieces of timber or trees, the broad part downwards, a rope is faſtened to the clapper, which a per ſon pulls, they have no idea of a wheel or of muſical changes. It is computed there are above a thouſand churches or chapels in Moſcow, the moſt of which are very ſmall; the clergy are very numerous, but totally ignorant.

The Ruſſians, as before obſerved, are great bigots, they attend ſervice often; when they are buried, a certificate from their prieſt of their faith

and conduct is placed in their hand, with a ſilver coin intended for St. Peter.

The nobility, military and ſhop-keepers, ſhave their beards, the clergy affect a long one, and eſteem it a mark of ſanctity. It is ſaid, that when Capt. Chancellor firſt was introduced to John Baſilowitz, he had in his ſuite a Mr. Killingworth, an Engliſhman whoſe beard was five feet two inches long; the Emperor taking hold of it, put it into the patriarch's hand, who admired it as a particular bleſſing; probably, one reaſon for pitching on this gentleman as an agent, was his having ſuch a mighty beard, the veneration of many nations for beards being known.

Peter, among other regulations, ordered the beards of all his ſubjects, except the clergy, to be ſhaved; this was executed

executed by force, and occaſioned great diſturbance. It was requeſted, however, as a ſingular favour, that their beards might be reſtored, and it was placed in their coffins to ſatisfy St. Peter that it was by violence they were ſhaved; but ſince his death, beards were and are ſtill worn by all the peaſantry.

All religions are tolerated in Ruſſia but Jews; the Roman Catholics have a large church in Moſcow, but the congregation is ſmall. Although the Ruſſians tolerate different religions, they ſuffer no converts to be made from the Ruſſian faith, by this means all diſputes are prevented.

When the court is at Moſcow, there are uſually maſquerades, balls and plays, but at other times there is not

the leaſt amuſement. The lower claſs of people have a muſical ear, and ſing a variety of ſongs; and although unacquainted with the rudiments of muſic, as a ſcience, form a pleaſing harmony. Muſical inſtruments among the lower claſs are hardly known, except a kind of dulcimer; few of the gentry ſtudy muſic. The ladies are indolent, and as I have before ſaid, rarely amuſe themſelves in learning, or in domeſtic employments.

When they viſit, or travel, it is with great pomp; rank and precedence is their favourite paſſion, and they on all occaſions exert it, and affect to hold even the European merchants in contempt. Every clerk in a public office, though his ſalary is but ten pounds a year, wears a ſword (generally a braſs one) even at his deſk.

LET-

LETTER X.

SIR, Moſcow.

I HAVE had an opportunity of viewing the treaſury, a favour very rarely obtained; it contained a very large quantity of old plate, chiefly a kind of flaggons, uſed more particularly formerly at feaſts, when it was uſual to force the gueſts to drink to exceſs; ſome of theſe flaggons held three or four gallons.

I was ſhewn a number of ſaddles for ſumpter horſes, richly inlaid with rough diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and other ſtones, the cloths covered with pearls. The whole ſeemed to be kept in a very indifferent condition.

There

There are ſeveral crowns of gold, maſſy and with few ornaments, and a variety of axes uſed at the executions of the nobility, the handles of which were gold, and the ſteel work alſo curiouſly inlaid with gold. A truncheon is ſhewn, that Peter uſed to lay on the nobility's ſhoulders when remiſs in their duty.

The old winter palace is a building of great extent, but the apartments are mean and ill furniſhed. The ſummer palace is of wood, and only one ſtory high; it is painted on the outſide, and is of conſiderable extent, it was ſome years ago conſumed by fire, and entirely rebuilt in thirty-ſix days, ſome thouſands of perſons being employed night and day; at night by torch light. There are no paintings or ornaments.

The country for ſome miles round Moſcow is delightful, being open, tho' interſperſed with pleaſant groves and walks. The gentry who reſide in Moſcow, have generally ſeats on their reſpective eſtates, but they are generally indifferent buildings. The merchants or tradeſmen have no idea of country lodgings, neither are there any inns or houſes to let for ſuch purpoſes.

The Ruſſian gentry ſeldom ride on horſeback or take the diverſions of the chace, having few or no dogs for the purpoſe, neither do they value horſes for their ſpeed or beauty, but they have a variety of carriages of little value. They have no reliſh for heraldry.

When the court travels from Peterſburgh to Moſcow, it is ſuppoſed that not leſs than twenty thouſand perſons follow

follow it. The nobility always having a great number of ſervants, or rather ſlaves to attend them. The Empreſs uſually travels in winter, in a carriage which conſiſt of two rooms, with every convenience of a bed, table, &c. this is placed on a ſledge, and is drawn by thirty or forty horſes. Winter is the beſt time for travelling, as the ſnow is froze, whereas in ſummer the roads are terrible.

The ſciences flouriſh much leſs at Moſcow than at Peterſbourgh. Aſtronomy, mathematics or painting, the Ruſſians have no taſte for, and indeed there is no poſſibility of learning thoſe ſciences here.

I was ſurprized to find, that in ſo large a city as Moſcow, there were not any hoſpitals or charitable foundations, neither

ther have the poor any kind of relief from doctors or ſurgeons, but provident Nature has given them a turn for botany, and they have among themſelves many uſeful compoſitions.

The Ruſſians, according to the tenets of the Greek church, are obliged to bathe frequently; the baths are intenſely hot, and yet in the midſt of that perſpiration, I have known them roll themſelves in ſnow, without any dangerous conſequences ariſing.

St. Nicholas is the patron or ſaint the Ruſſians worſhip, his image is placed in every room, on entering which they always croſs themſelves; they are ſo tenacious of this cuſtom, that foreigners are obliged to have one in their offices or ſhops.

The

The method of recruiting is ſingular: an order is iſſued from the chanceries to the owner of every eſtate, to find a certain number of every hundred ſlaves they are proprietors of, ſo that the government is at no expence for bounty or levy money, and are ſupplied with the number of men required at a very ſhort notice.

The Ruſſian government labour under more difficulties in manning their navy.

Thirty years ago their navy was contemptible, both in reſpect to the ſhips or the commanders, two or three almoſt obſcure Britiſh officers compoſed the naval department.

A few Engliſh builders had indeed baniſhed themſelves to that country, on

proſpects

proſpects that fell far ſhort of their expectations, for the Ruſſian miniſtry in Elizabeth's reign treated foreigners with coolneſs, if not contempt. Elizabeth's predeceſſor Ann had encouraged foreigners, the ſtate was guided by them; it was natural to ſuppoſe that on the revolution they would be objects of envy and jealouſy. The Ruſſians who had worked under Engliſh ſhip-builders, were not without vanity or conceit, they imagined ſhip-building an eaſy ſcience. I recollect a ſhip of about 80 guns built at Peterſburgh by Ruſſians alone, which on launching proved unfit for ſailing, and there remained to rot, which indeed ſoon happens, for their ſhips being built of fir ſoon decay; I have been informed that ſeven years is eſteemed tolerable ſervice in a Ruſſian man of war.

The

The Ruſſians carrying on no trade in their own bottoms, there is no natural nurſery for ſeamen as in England; this is a circumſtance that will ever check their ſea operations, and prevent their making a reſpectable figure as a maritime power.

To what a deplorable ſtate would the Britiſh navy be reduced to, were there no ſeamen to be found but thoſe brought up in the ſervice of government; no fleet can be manned in England but by ſtripping the merchant ſhips, and although that is a mode unjuſtifiable in every ſenſe of the word liberty, it ſeems unavoidable.

The Ruſſians indeed, in the late Turkiſh war, reared a few ſeamen, but hardly any reached their native country again, and the next fleet will be manned

with as raw ſeamen as ever. Had the Ruſſian fleet, even with the aſſiſtance of Britiſh officers, oppoſed any power but the Ottoman, their ignorance and their inability would have been conſpicuous.

Much has been ſaid of the Ruſſian courage; I will venture to call it mechanical. In abſolute governments, where the ſoldiers or ſailors are naturally brought up in the idea of ſlavery, there will indeed be a ſubordination, a valuable circumſtance 'tis true, but that kind of courage will never fill their hearts with enthuſiaſm, with ideas of glory; that kind of courage will never lead them to perform the exploits of a Britiſh army, or a Britiſh navy, compoſed chiefly of volunteers, who freely fight as ſoldiers, ſailors, and as freemen.

I am, &c.

LETTER XI.

SIR, Moſcow.

KNOWING your paſſion for antiquities, you will naturally be expecting from me a budget of them; I am however under the neceſſity of diſappointing you on that head. I have before obſerved that the Ruſſians have little or no taſte for the belles lettres; and I may ſafely ſay that a coin or medal, whoſe impreſſion was hardly legible, would give very little ſatisfaction to a Ruſſian gentleman; ſo different are they from a true Engliſh virtuoſo—it is the not being able to make any thing of it that gives it a value with moſt modern collectors!

The

The only piece I met with was a rouble of the unfortunate little Prince Ivan, and it was treaſon to be poſſeſſed of ſuch a piece after he was depoſed—ſo jéalous are princes of every circumſtance that might tend to revive the memory of an unfortunate predeceſſor.

But although I cannot give you a deſcription of fifty muſeums, having, in truth, never met with any, I muſt not omit, however, to tell you of a ſingular curioſity I met with at Novogrod, namely, a mill-ſtone, on which St. Anthony ſailed from Africa to Archangel. This is depoſited in the monaſtery there, and allowing the fact to be true, which every Ruſſian does, it is certainly invaluable.

On the 6th of January there is a religious ceremony, which is bleſſing the water of the river here, in imitation of our Saviour's baptiſm by St. John. You will perhaps wonder why this ceremony is performed at a time when the river is froze ſome feet thick. Zeal however overcomes every obſtacle; holes are cut in the ice, and the moment the waters are bleſſed, every one is eager to jump into the water. There were, I ſuppoſe, ten thouſand prieſts aſſembled, and a prodigious concourſe of perſons of every denomination.

As the duty of the clergy is merely the repeating litanies, and that no ſermons or moral diſcourſes are permitted, you will, I fancy, be inclined to conclude ſo great a number uſeleſs; indeed the poor Ruſſians have neither the advantage

vantage of example or precept to induce them to good conduct and behaviour; the clergy being often guilty of drinking to excess, and living very disorderly lives.

The Russians are hospitable; among the poorest, no one goes to visit another without leaving a small coin at least, more particularly at the time of the woman's lying-in. This custom holds with the rich; it is usual for men to pay formal visits to the wives of their friends very soon after their delivery; the lady is dressed in bed, and, after a salute, the gentleman puts one to five or ten ducats behind her pillow. A gentleman of the faculty here told me, he usually received to the value of two hundred ducats at the birth of every child,

which is about one hundred pounds ſterling.

Strange accounts have formerly been publiſhed of the ſubmiſſion of Ruſſian wives to their huſbands; ſuch as the woman's father giving a whip to the ſon-in-law, at the time of giving her away, and other circumſtances of the like nature. This cuſtom, if ever it exiſted, muſt have been among the lower claſs, and moſt probably, before the time of Peter the Great's excurſions to England, and other places. However it is true, that in general, huſbands maintain their authority with more rigour than with you; nay I have been informed that correction does not totally alienate the affections of the ſpouſe. Whether 'tis fear or affection I will not pretend to determine, but actions of *crim. con.* are as yet unknown here; perhaps

perhaps alſo the circumſtance of the ladies having no jointure or ſettlement, to enable her to live aſunder, may tend to preſerve harmony in the married ſtate.

LETTER XII.

SIR, Moſcow.

IF the Ruſſians may ſeem to you ruſtic and unpoliſhed, in ſome circumſtances, however, they excel more well-bred nations.

The gothic and barbarous cuſtom of duels, ſo much in vogue with you, from the nobleman to the journeyman hair-dreſſer, is not prevalent here; if ſuch circumſtance happens, it muſt be among the military, and that rarely.

It is indeed to be lamented, that a cuſtom ſo contrary to the dictates of reaſon, and the expreſs commands of revelation,

revelation, ſhould not only ſubſiſt, but even increaſe in civilized countries. That the turbulence of paſſion and momentary ill uſage, might ſometimes occaſion ſuch deſperate acts, may be conceived; but that after cool reflection, if it can be ſo called, every means, by letter or otherways, ſhould be uſed to irritate, to force, as it were, a man to deſtruction, is indeed unaccountable.

But ſurprizing as this may ſeem, we muſt be more aſtoniſhed at the frequent ſuicides in England. An affront, or ſome particular aggravation, might perhaps induce a man to revenge himſelf on the agreſſor; but what can we think of a perſon who ſeeks his own deſtruction without that ſpur or motive? what affection can a man have for wife, children and relations, who by one cowardly ſtroke involves them all

all in calamity and deſpair?—Pride, miſtaken pride! is the ſource of this evil. The brute creation exert their power againſt their invaders or enemies —man, more brutal man, exerts his power, his malice, his anger, againſt whom?—himſelf!——But a truce to morality.—I meant only to acquaint you that ſuch horrid practices are not cuſtomary in this untaught, wild region. The Engliſh are called a nation of philoſophers, the Ruſſians ſavages—view the contraſt!

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

SIR, Moſcow.

The contraſt between an arbitrary and free government, cannot appear more ſtriking than in the compariſon of Ruſſia and England.

In England, be the condition or the crime what it will, the culprit is tried by his equals, and by certain known laws, neither is the perſon accuſed to condemn himſelf, either by perſuaſion or torture.

On the contrary, in this country, not only a perſon ſuſpected of a crime is without legal form of trial baniſhed to the

the barren climes of Siberia, but his whole family is generally involved in his misfortune and disgrace, and his estates and property confiscated. When such a cataftrophe happens, no one will dare to enquire into the fate of his friend, leaft he fhare in the calamity, and the family is as totally buried in oblivion as if they never had exifted. Oftentimes it happens that a baniſhment is not the only puniſhment inflicted; the puniſhment of the knout, or cutting out of the tongue, has been frequently the lot of noblemen and ladies of quality.

Revolutions, or other circumſtances, have ſometimes recalled from baniſhment perſons who have been exiled for a number of years; on their return no notice is taken of what is paſſed. A ſingular inſtance of this change of for-

tune we have in Count Munich; this brave, though rather raſh officer, having been very inſtrumental in procuring the regency of the unfortunate Czar Ivan of John the Third to the Princeſs of Mecklenburgh, had been highly favoured by her, but on the revolution which brought Elizabeth on the throne, in 1741, he was baniſhed to Pelym, in the province of Tobolſki in Siberia, where he remained until the year 1762, when he was recalled by Peter the Third; he was with him at Orancembaum when the Empreſs marched againſt him, and adviſed him to defend himſelf; Peter, however, ſunk under his misfortune, only conditioned for his life and hereditary dominions in Holſtein; he lived however but a few days. Munich, who one would imagine would have experienced a ſecond baniſhment, at leaſt,

was

was permitted to live quietly at Peterſburgh, where he died in 1767, aged 87.

In civil cauſes the Briton has a great advantage; if misfortunes or loſſes befal him, the clemency, the humanity of the laws are ſuch, that a temporary impriſonment is deemed adequate to misfortune. But here, when impriſoned for debt, there is no relief to be expected, unleſs from the creditor, which rarely happens. What rational being would prefer Ruſſia to England?

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XIV.

SIR, Moſcow.

IT is perhaps ſingular, that as improvements in agriculture extend, and trade becomes more flouriſhing, every convenience of life ſhould increaſe in value.

There being many millions of acres of waſte land in the Ruſſian dominions, it ſeems a paradox to ſuppoſe that the value of land ſhould augment, and, in courſe, the produce ſhould remain nearly on a par. The fact however is otherways, for proviſions have advanced, within theſe twenty years, very rapidly; beef

beef from three farthings to near two-pence, and other articles in proportion.

Not only proviſions have advanced in price, but hemp, flax, and other articles of export, have rapidly increaſed in value ; it ſhould ſeem by this, that the more an article is cultivated the dearer it grows.

To what ſhall we attribute this phæ-nomenon, not only in Ruſſia, but in every other country ?

I am inclined to think that what mankind ſeeks ſo greedily after, money, is the real cauſe ! the gold imported from the mines of Potoſi and the Brazils, annually do more real miſchief than the improvements and cultivation of land can overbalance ; 'tis a ſlow

poiſon

poiſon that inſenſibly enervates the labourers toil and deſtroys induſtry!

To thoſe in commerce and trade, the gradual riſe of every article is not ſo ſeverely felt, as by thoſe who having fixed ſtipends or intereſt cannot increaſe their income. This claſs of perſons muſt inſenſibly be reduced to great inconveniences and diſtreſs, more particularly in England, where ſo large a property is veſted in the funds; they muſt rather expect intereſt to be reduced than augmented.

The intereſt of money in Ruſſia was formerly 12 per cent. by one regulation it was lowered to 6; and as wealth accumulates and proviſions riſe, intereſt will probably fall.

Although the Ruſſian government have created no national funds, during the laſt war they were under the neceſſity of borrowing ſome conſiderable loans in Holland. This burthen is one of the uſual conſequences of conqueſts and acquiſition.

The chief ſpecie here is ſilver roubles. I had occaſion to receive of one of the chancery, a bill of twenty thouſand pounds ſterling, which was paid all in ſilver. Holland ducats are current here but ſcarce.

There is one maxim in trade the Ruſſians never depart from, which is, to buy of the foreign merchants at long credit, and on the contrary to diſpoſe of their own products for ready money. The nobility in general pay very badly, and it is almoſt impoſſible to recover debts of them by law.

LETTER XV.

SIR, Moſcow.

I HAVE been on a little excurſion to ſome of the ſeats of the nobility round this city.

The only one I thought worthy of notice was about ten miles from hence; the houſe was large, but ornamented in a paltry manner, being plaſter painted, ſomething in the nature of your tea-houſes about London; the garden was large, but unfortunately the ſoil was a barren ſand, ſo that nothing could poſſibly thrive; at the four corners of the garden were erected four compleat ſmall dwelling-houſes in the ſtile of different nations; one was in the Dutch, the

chimneys ornamented with tiles in the Dutch manner, and every part of the houſe imitated ſo exactly the Dutch manner, that a perſon would have thought himſelf at the Hague; another was in the Italian mode, with balconies, ornamented with paintings, and had a pleaſing effect; the third was in the Engliſh ſtile, built of brick; the fourth was of wood, in the Ruſſian manner; all theſe houſes were furniſhed, and ſhewed a ſingularity in the projector: the garden was ſpacious, but the ſoil, as before obſerved, was a barren ſand; I was told that the expence had exceeded twenty thouſand pounds ſterling, which ſeemed totally thrown away. In truth, this country does not ſeem intended by nature for improvements of this kind; the ſnow, which lies on the earth for five months in the year, leaves but little time for verdure to ſhow its beauties;

to one who had ſeen the lawn, the groves, the numberleſs beauties of an Engliſh villa, this boaſted ſeat ſeemed a deſart wild!

There is little or no fruit in Ruſſia; the apples are ſour, cherries there are, but ſmall and ill taſted; the art of gardening is little underſtood in Ruſſia, and except in the royal garden, it is a ſcience totally neglected; the Engliſh merchants, however, in Peterſburgh, procure fruit from their neighbours, and a very conſiderable quantity of filberds and pippins are ſent annually from England to furniſh their deſarts.

Although the Britiſh factors at St. Peterſburgh live in a ſplendid manner, I have been aſſured, that the mere overcharge they make on the lighterage, and other ſhipping charges of the

goods they ſhip on commiſſion, pays the whole of their houſhold expences; this however is conſidered here as a legal perquiſite, and by no means an impoſition, in which light you will do as well to conſider it, as there is no remedy.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

SIR, Moſcow.

IT is fortunate that in this country the clergy have no power, for by this circumſtance there has not aroſe thoſe tyrannic proceedings which have ſo often involved other countries in civil wars.

Whoever peruſes the hiſtory of Europe, will find that wars, revolutions, and other calamities of the like nature, have generally been fomented by the clergy; nor can the divines of one mode of worſhip be charged with it more than the others. Dryden has indeed ſaid, "That prieſts of all reli-

" gions are the ſame ;" who can without horror read the lives of the popes, when he conſiders the millions that have been engaged in civil wars to aggrandize the power of the church? Nor is the animoſity and rage between the clergy and laity alone, for divines would tear one another to pieces rather than give up a comma; happy is it with you the houſe of convocation meet but to break up. Divines indeed conſign thoſe of different opinions to perdition hereafter, but fortunately, for the peace of mankind, they are not permitted to burn one another in this world. The government here allowing of no ſchiſms in the eſtabliſhed church, which is the Greek, prevents thoſe diſputes and altercations which are in truth often a diſgrace to any mode of worſhip.

The

The clergy here are indeed ignorant but they are quiet; they content themſelves with reading their liturgy, without wiſhing or pretending to explain what Providence has not perhaps deſigned we ſhould be able to do; and they have generally one point in view, which is to live as well and as comfortably as poſſible; why ſhould we cavil at that inſtinct in the clergy of all nations, which we allow to be a reaſonable one in their flocks?

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

SIR, Moſcow.

NOTHING perhaps would more aſtoniſh a Ruſſian, were he to reſide a few months in London, than the numerous executions of criminals, and the number convicted of ſmaller offences in that period.

To tell a Ruſſian that a thouſand perſons are tried for criminal offences in the city of London, in the courſe of a year, would by him be deemed an untruth, and yet it is a fact. I may venture to ſay, that there is not that number brought to juſtice in the whole Ruſſian dominions in that period of time.

time. There are, no doubt, many little thefts committed by the lower claſs of people, but as yet they have no gentlemen highwaymen, gentlemen ſwindlers, or gentlemen forgers. In Ruſſia thefts are committed by ignorant perſons, who never had the leaſt education, or means of livelihood. In England, the greateſt crimes are uſually committed by thoſe who have received the beſt education, and whoſe natural profeſſions would, it ſhould ſeem, be ſufficient to maintain them in an honourable manner.

To what can we impute ſo ſtrange a paradox?—Can a nation be ſaid to be civilized whoſe individuals commit the greateſt crimes?—Is virtue and education incompatible?—Does the ſavage inherit from nature a greater portion of

honour

honour than thoſe who have been taught by rule to be honeſt?

There are two principal motives which keep men from tranſgreſſing the laws, Virtue and Fear. From the preſent number of criminals daily brought to juſtice, we might conclude, that Virtue is obliterated, and Fear deſpiſed.

In Ruſſia, excluſive of the nobility and gentry, no one wiſhes to be thought wealthy, and conſequently they affect an appearance of poverty. They are daily in fear of a ſuperior power ſtripping them—to what purport rob? In England every one's ambition is to eclipſe thoſe in equal rank, that is the rock ſo often ſplit on by thoſe above the common claſs.

In

In reſpect to the lower claſs of criminals, their number may, perhaps, be in ſome meaſure cauſed to the ill managed police. In England the great plan there ſeems to be to puniſh criminals, not prevent their becoming ſo. It may be ſaid, the emolument to thoſe who take thieves is great—perhaps 'tis the cauſe there are ſo many. There is no country in the world where that employment is reduced to ſo regular a ſyſtem. We ſeldom hear of a pick-pocket being apprehended; the reaſon is obvious—there is no reward. If he lives he will increaſe in villainy, become a houſebreaker, a highwayman—the conſequence is obvious.

Large as the city of Moſcow is, without a ſingle trading juſtice, without one profeſſed thief-taker, we rarely hear of a houſe being broke open,

open, or of footpads or other robbers. Luxury has not there yet ſpread its baneful wings. There are neither plays, maſquerades, or other diverſions to promote the diſſipation of property, and the depravity of morals. In particular, there are neither taverns or bagnios to invite the unwary to deſtruction. Courtezans are not ſeen here in the ſtreets, as in London, ſome no doubt there are, but they are buried in obſcurity, and if diſcovered, puniſhed. Puniſhed, indeed, they are with you—but how? why occaſionally warrants are granted to ſearch the ſtreets—wretches who have yet but one vice, are hurried to jail, and blended with criminals of every kind for a certain time. In lieu of reformation, the conſequence is the addition of other vices; but theſe occaſional ſeverities do not fail to bring griſt to

the

the good juſtice, by warrants, bail-bonds, &c.

Here the governor, and other officers under him, are paid by the crown; they have no motive for oppreſſion, or the countenancing of vice: perhaps if it were ſo in England it would be better; at leaſt, thoſe who were appointed, would probably be better ſkilled in the laws of the land, and would be more reſpected by the public at large.

But I am digreſſing ſtrangely—deſcribing the police of London, in lieu of that of Moſcow—or rather both. And, upon the whole, although civil property is certainly much better protected in England, I muſt own the criminal police of Ruſſia is not without its merit.

LET-

LETTER XVIII.

SIR, Moſcow.

SOBRIETY and temperance are not the favourite virtues of the Ruſſians, although the gentry are at preſent more abſtemious than they were fifty years ſince.

Brandy is their favourite liquor, and the quantity ſome will drink is inconceivable. At entertainments, the maſter or miſtreſs preſents you with a glaſs of wine or brandy, which holds from one to two quarts, which you are under the neceſſity of drinking, though you ſhould drop down intoxicated.

Nor

Nor is this cuſtom confined to the middling rank, or gentry. Czars and Czarinas have themſelves adopted the cuſtom. An Ambaſſador, who was at Peterſburgh in the year 1715, relates a diverting circumſtance, which happened in a party of pleaſure with Peter the Great.—" Being arrived at Cronſlot, we " were plied with tokay by his Majeſty's " own hand, in ſuch a manner, at din- " ner, that at our breaking up we were " hardly able to ſtand; nevertheleſs, we " were obliged to empty each a bowl " holding a full quart, which we re- " ceived from the Czarina's own hand; " whereupon we quite loſt our ſenſes, " and were in that pickle carried off to " ſleep; at four in the afternoon we " were waked, and brought again to " the pleaſure-houſe, when the Czar " gave to each of us a hatchet, with " orders to follow him; he led us into

" a wood of young trees, where he
" marked a walk, of about an hundred
" paces, to be cut out; he fell to work
" foremoſt, and though we (being ſeven
" in number, beſides his Majeſty) found
" ſo unuſual a drudgery very hard for
" people who had not half recovered
" their ſenſes, yet we followed courage-
" ouſly for three hours, by which time
" the fumes of the wine had pretty well
" evaporated, nor did we receive any
" harm, except a certain miniſter, who
" hacked at the trees with ſuch fury,
" that by the fall of one he was hit and
" bruiſed. The Czar having thanked
" us by word of mouth, the reward fol-
" lowed at ſupper, when we received ſuch
" another doſe of liquor as ſent us ſenſe-
" leſs to bed; but having ſcarcely ſlept
" an hour and a half, a favourite of the
" Czar's was ſent about midnight to
" rouſe us, and carry us, willing or un-
" willing,

" willing, to the Prince of Circaſſia,
" who was in bed with his conſort,
" where we were again peſtered with
" wine and brandy 'till four in the
" morning. About eight we attended
" the Czar to breakfaſt, but inſtead of
" tea and coffee, as we expected, we
" were welcomed with large cups of
" brandy; after having taken a turn in
" the woods, we had the fourth
" drinking bout at dinner, when a fair
" gale preſenting, we returned."

At the aſſemblies brandy is ſtill called for. The firſt aſſembly in Peterſburgh was in the year 1719; the Czar cauſed a regulation to be printed on that occaſion, in the Ruſſian tongue, which is in itſelf curious, and may ſerve as a contraſt to the rules eſtabliſhed at Bath and other polite places.

Regulations for keeping Aſſemblies at Peterſburgh.

" Aſſembly is a French term, which " cannot be rendered in Ruſſian in one " word, it ſignifies a number of perſons " meeting together, either for diverſion " or to talk about their own affairs; " friends may ſee each other on that " occaſion, to confer together on buſi- " neſs, or other ſubjects; to enquire " after domeſtic or foreign news, and " ſo to paſs their time. After what " manner we will have thoſe aſſemblies " kept, may be learned from what fol- " lows :

" 1. The perſon at whoſe houſe the " aſſembly is to be in the evening, is " to hang out a bill, or other ſign, to " give notice to all perſons of either " ſex.

" 2. The

" 2. The aſſembly ſhall not begin " ſooner than four or five in the after- " noon, nor continue later than ten at " night.

" 3. The maſter of the houſe is not " obliged to go and meet his gueſts, to " conduct them out, or to entertain " them; but he ought to find chairs, " candles, drink, and all the neceſſaries " aſked for, as alſo to provide for all " ſorts of gaming, and what belongs " thereto.

" 4. No certain hour is fixed for any " body's coming or going, it is ſuffi- " cient if one makes his appearance in " the aſſembly.

" 5. It is left to every one's liberty " to ſit, walk, or play, juſt as he likes, " nor ſhall any body hinder him, or

" take exceptions at what he does, on " pain of emptying the *Great Eagle* (a " bowl filled with wine or brandy). " As for the reſt, it is ſufficient to ſa- " lûte at coming or going.

" 6. Perſons of rank, as for inſtance, " noblemen and ſuperior officers, like- " wiſe merchants of note, and head " maſters, by which are chiefly under- " ſtood ſhip-builders; perſons em- " ployed in the chancery, and their " wives and children, ſhall have liberty " to frequent the aſſembly.

" 7. A particular place ſhall be " aſſigned to the footmen (thoſe of the " houſe excepted) that there may be " ſufficient room in the apartments de- " ſigned for the aſſembly."

At theſe aſſemblies there is dancing in one room, in another cards, draughts and

and chefs; in the third room there is ſmoking and diſcourſing; in the fourth are ladies and gentlemen diverting themſelves with queſtions and commands, forfeits, croſs-purpoſes, and ſuch other little plays, that create good humour and laughter, and none of the company are obliged to drink more wine and brandy than what they aſk for.

This ſimple plan is however now much altered here, though brandy holds its authority ſtill.

I am, &c.

LETTER XIX.

SIR, Moſcow.

THERE are ſeveral nunneries in and about Moſcow; in one of which, called the *Tehude Monaſter*, are the burying places of all the *Czarinas* and *Czarinnas*, or princeſſes, which make a fine appearance. The corpſe lie in ſtone coffins, ranged in the ſame order as they died.

About an Engliſh mile from the city ſtands the *Dewitz Monaſter*, or nunnery, which is a handſome ſtructure. In this place the Princeſs Sophia, Peter's ſiſter by the half blood, was kept priſoner during life, for being concerned in the great

great rebellion. At that time nobody was admitted to ſee it, without the expreſs leave of Knees Tiedor Jurgowitz Romadinoſſky, then Vice-Czar of Moſcow; he was a man of ſtrict juſtice, but withal of a ſtrange humour, for it was his cuſtom to force his gueſts to drink a cup full of ſtrong brandy, mixed with pepper, which a huge bear was artfully taught to preſent to them with one of her paws, and even, for diverſion ſake, to pull off their hats and wigs, and to lay hold of their cloaths, if they ſcrupled to pledge.

The Ruſſians ſuffer no inſtrumental muſic in their churches, for they ſay that God can only be praiſed by human voice, neither have they any ſeats, but ſtand or kneel before the images, croſſing themſelves without intermiſſion, and repeating, Lord have mercy upon us,

us, all the time the prieſt ſays maſs. In the nunneries they ſing in two parts, after Ruſſian notes, but there is no variation in the muſic.

Moſt of the monaſteries about Moſcow are ſurrounded with high walls and turrets, the Tartars having frequently made inroads as far as Moſcow. There are ſome paintings in moſt of them, but they are rather daubings; relicks they have but few, 'tis not the Ruſſian hobby!

There are married women in many of the nunneries, who either chuſe that life of their own accord, on ſome diſcontents in marriage, or are thruſt into them by their huſbands, which in this country is eaſily done. They wear long black gowns with wide ſleeves, a girdle about

about their waiſt, and on their heads wide black hoods. If married men turn monks, their marriage is of courſe diſſolved.

I am, &c.

LET-

BRITANNICUM

LETTER XX.

SIR, Moſcow.

TO write to you from this country, and not to devote one letter to Peter the Great, will to you ſeem inexcuſable. I muſt own, however, that he is leſs talked of in Ruſſia than in other parts of Europe.

During his life, printing being, as it were, in its infancy, few anecdotes of him were preſerved by his ſubjects. What has been publiſhed on that head, has generally been done by foreigners who were in employments under him, or were there in public characters from other courts.

FH
MVSEVM
BRITANNICVM

So

So much has been ſaid of him in his military capacity, by his hiſtorians, that it would be needleſs to repeat it again; I would rather wiſh to conſider him in a more domeſtic point of view; ſince, probably, in that light, we may be able to judge of his natural inclinations.

Peter, originally, was debarred of a tolerable education; the Princeſs Sophia uſed her utmoſt endeavours to deprive him of that advantage, in hopes that by an unbecoming conduct he would, in time, render himſelf odious to the people, and that his promiſing genius, of which he gave early proofs, would be ſtifled by debauches and licentiouſneſs—Ivan, his brother, being her favourite.

To his natural parts we muſt, therefore, attribute all that may ſeem ſur-

prizing in the aſtoniſhing revolution he occaſioned in the manners and improvements of his ſubjects.

Though he had many counſellors, I am inclined to think that, in general, he purſued his own original ideas, by which means he ſometimes erred.

In his natural diſpoſition he was cruel and arbitrary to a degree. His cruelty appears evident, by the puniſhments he ſo ſeverely inflicted on thouſands of his ſubjects. In the founding of St. Peterſburgh not leſs than a hundred thouſand perſons loſt their lives, being arbitrarily obliged to quit their habitations and families to aſſiſt in that undertaking, where they were left to ſtarve, no proviſion being made for them. His treatment of priſoners of war was equally cruel and unjuſt, not only the officers

officers of rank were obliged to walk as ſlaves in his triumphal pageantries, but they were baniſhed to the inhoſpitable climes of Siberia, where they ſuffered every hardſhip, and, in general, periſhed. The number of priſoners taken at the battle of Pultowa, amounted to 15,753 men, few or none of whom ever returned to Sweden.

On the taking of any city, town, or village from his enemies, it was his cuſtom to remove the whole of the inhabitants to ſome parts of his deſert dominions—a practice totally repugnant to juſtice and equity.

Even thoſe foreigners whom he had by promiſes induced to ſettle in his dominions, found themſelves egregiouſly miſtaken; they were neglected, ill paid, and when deſirous of retiring to their reſpective

reſpective countries, deprived of that privilege on the moſt frivolous pretences.

A ſingular inſtance of cruelty and hardſhip, committed by Peter, was in the caſe of the famous Count Piper, a Swediſh officer. In the year 1712, the Ruſſians burned five Dutch merchantmen off Helſingfors, miſtaking them for Swediſh. The States General long inſiſted upon reparation, but in vain. The Ruſſian court, therefore, pretending that the Swediſh ſhips, which laid at the ſame time near Helſingfors, had been the occaſion of that accident, and bearing an ill will to Count Piper, who had always acted as a gallant ſubject to his ſovereign, he was told, he muſt either reſolve to pay fifty thouſand roubles, (11,000 l.) or be ſent to the remoteſt parts of Siberia. Accordingly, the

the Count drew a bill upon his lady in Sweden for the ſaid ſum, which ſhe accepted, but the King of Sweden forbidding her, under ſevere penalties, to make payments, Count Piper was for that reaſon treated in a moſt rigorous manner. Nor can the circumſtance, mentioned by Hanway, of Peter's giving his own ſword to General Renchild, be conſidered as a proof of natural generoſity, but merely as a political manœuvre.

LETTER XXI.

SIR, Moſcow.

PETER the Great was inflexible in his diſpoſition and determinations; generoſity and mercy had but little ſhare in his reſolutions; levity, indeed, ſometimes intruded on his ſerious moments.

The firſt of April was a day the Czar took great delight in. In the year 1719, a perſon of the name of Sampſon, remarkable for his ſtrength, was in Peterſburgh; his Majeſty had given orders to all perſons of diſtinction, the Czarina Dowager, and her princeſſes not excepted, to appear at the playhouſe to ſee the famous Sampſon exhibit.

Pit

Pit and boxes were ſoon filled. The expectations of the ſpectators being raiſed by long preparations made on the ſtage, they grew impatient to ſee the ſhew begin, when a machine was let down from the clouds, with this inſcription in capital letters, APRIL. The Harlequin afterwards appeared, and having in a merry compliment ridiculed the company for being thus come on an April errand, thanked them for the preſent, and invited them to come again next day for better diverſion. The year before the Czar had pleaſed himſelf with another ſort of humour, on the like occaſion; he had ordered an old houſe to be ſet on fire on the firſt of April, in the night time, in ſome remote part of the town, and the drums to be beaten; he went to the place himſelf, much delighted, to ſee his ſoldiers running full ſpeed to extin-

guiſh the flames. After which, however, he ordered them beer and brandy for their pains. In the reign of Peter, the faſhion of keeping dwarfs was univerſal with the great. In the year 1719, a woman dwarf was brought to bed, and added a new number to the ſociety, or ſpecies of thoſe diminutives of mankind, whom they then took particular care, in Ruſſia, to propagate, by marrying them together. In the year 1710, the Czar was pleaſed to add to the ſolemnities of the nuptials between Princeſs Ann, his niece, and the Duke of Courland, Frederick William, the diverſions of a dwarf wedding. The day before the wedding two dwarfs, of well proportioned ſhape, finely dreſſed, drove about in a little chaiſe to invite the gueſts. On the day appointed, a very little dwarf marched at the head of the proceſſion, as marſhal; he was followed by

by the bride and bridegroom, then came the Czar, attended by his miniſters and other officers, next marched all the dwarfs of both ſexes, in couples, in number ſeventy-two. The proceſſion was cloſed by a vaſt number of ſpectators. After dinner the dwarfs began to dance, which diverſion laſted 'till night, to the great diverſion of the ſpectators, and the new married couple were bedded in the Czar's own bed-chamber.

About the ſame time the Czar cauſed a wedding between one Sotoff, a writing maſter, in his 84th year, to a buxom widow of 34; the company conſiſted of 400 perſons, every four perſons had their peculiar dreſs, ſo that they repreſented an hundred different nations. The four perſons appointed to invite the gueſts, were the greateſt ſtammerers that could be found in all Ruſſia. Old

decripid men, who were not able to walk or ſtand, were picked out to ſerve for brideſmen, ſtewards and waiters. There were four running footmen, who beſides the gout, were ſo unwieldy as to want others to lead them. The Czar himſelf was dreſſed like a boor of Frizeland, and ſkilfully beat a drum, of which he was fond. In this manner, bells ringing every where, the ill matched couple were attended to the altar of the great church, where they were joined in matrimony by a prieſt an hundred years old, who had loſt his eye-ſight and memory, to ſupply which defect a pair of ſpectacles were put on his noſe, two candles held before his eyes, and the words ſounded into his ears which he was to pronounce. From church the proceſſion went to the Czar's palace, where the diverſions laſted ſome days.

It will naturally occur to you, that diverſions of this kind are, in truth, a ſpecies of cruelty. To collect together a ſet of miſerable cripples, and to expoſe them in the manner above recited, muſt, in the minds of rational beings, excite compaſſion and pity, not merriment. To the honour of the preſent times, objects of this kind are concealed, not expoſed.

LETTER XXII.

SIR, Moſcow.

PETER, it is ſaid, was of an amorous diſpoſition, but it was uſually gratified in a groſs and ſenſual manner. Mr. Hanway is of opinion, that his great foible was the love of women, on the contrary, I am apt to think, that intoxication and cruelty may be conſidered as his greateſt errors. Mr. Hanway, who may be conſidered rather as a platonic lover, than otherways, by his writings, makes a whimſical apology for the foible of his favourite Peter. "It is true, ſays he, that in love he "was no hero, but as ſervilely ſubmiſ-"ſive to an imperious appetite as a "com-

" common man, and it ſeemed in him
" but mere appetite, at leaſt we do not
" find, that the pleaſure or torment
" ariſing from a paſſionate indulgence,
" or a reaſonable government of this
" *weakneſs*, ever drew him into incon-
" veniences, or protracted the progreſs
" of that active and extenſive glory for
" which he was ſo much diſtinguiſhed;
" and for this vice, we muſt ſay with
" Sir Walter Raleigh, " If Adam in his
" ſtate of innocence, David, God's
" choſen ſervant, and Solomon, a man
" of the greateſt wiſdom, ſwerved from
" their duty to the living God, through
" the love they bore to woman, it is
" not ſo wonderful, as lamentable, that
" men have in all ſucceeding ages, &c."

How far the indulgence of the paſſions in married men, with other women, falls within the reaſonable government

ment Mr. Hanway means, I am at a loſs to determine. Mr. Hanway ſeems to conſider luſt but as a weakneſs, the reaſonable government of which his hero did not exceed. I will allow him that others have committed that crime to greater exceſs, but I cannot think that the parallel he draws between Adam, David, Solomon and Peter, can in any ſhape hold; what reſemblance can there be between Adam, who through the *weakneſs only* of being ſeduced by Eve, fell; and Peter, who through *luſt*, ſtrayed to every woman his paſſions prompted him to? Adam ſinned once—Peter continually. The remaining part of the compariſon, I think Mr. Hanway, through *decency*, might have omitted. Nor can the *ſuppoſed* repentance of Peter, be compared with the public and *known* contrition of David and Solomon.

Neither does the following circumſtance, mentioned by Mr. Hanway, give an idea of that tenderneſs and regard to his ſubjects, which Mr. Hanway would inculcate: "Valenſky, an offi-" cer, who had a command in the ex-" pedition to Perſia, was once beaten " by Peter's orders, miſtaking him for " another. Well, ſays Peter, I am " ſorry for it, but you will deſerve it " one day or other, and then remind " me that you are in arrears with me, " which accordingly happened upon " that very expedition, and he was " excuſed."

To me it ſeems, that the apology was adding cruelty to cruelty, and was neither conſiſtent with juſtice or humanity.

LET-

LETTER XXIII.

SIR, Peterſburgh.

I AM now returned, after a long ſtay at Moſcow, to this city, the winter being ſet in, I travelled in a ſledge this diſtance, in about five days.

I could not but obſerve, that the late war had much impeded the cultivation of land, by the number of hands that had been taken from the plough to recruit their armies.

In vain will Ruſſia attempt to render herſelf more flouriſhing, and her ſubjects more happy, by foreign conqueſt, ever retained at an immenſe expence, whilſt

whilſt ſhe depopulates her natural dominions. 'Tis true, indeed, that the war between Great-Britain and her colonies has occaſioned an increaſe of the exports of hemp, iron and timber from Ruſſia; to which alſo the general armaments of all the European powers has contributed; but ſhould a reconciliation happen, and the powers diſarm, Ruſſia will find herſelf involved in many difficulties, and her trade decreaſe as rapidly as it increaſed.

This city bears a military aſpect, by the number of officers here who have ſerved in the late wars; thoſe, however, in the naval departments, except a very few, do not ſeem to meet with great encouragement or recompenſe. Nor will their next fleet be manned with experienced ſailors, moſt of thoſe being dead who ſerved in the Turkiſh war; and

and I may venture to ſay, their navy will never make a reſpectable figure. I ſet out for Narva to-morrow, from whence, or from Riga, I ſhall trouble you again.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXIV.

SIR, Riga.

I BOUGHT at Peterſburgh a ſmall carriage, for a few ſhillings, which brought me to this place. In the road I paſſed through Narva, the capital of Eſtonia, it is but ſmall, ſtands on a riſing ground, and has a fortification of no great ſtrength. The trade of Narva conſiſts chiefly in flax and timber; formerly the trade was much more conſiderable. The timber exported is now limited by the Ruſſian government.

Narva is chiefly remarkable by the defeat of 100,000 Ruſſians by a handful of Swedes, in 1700; but in the courſe of

of four years it was taken by ſtorm, and numbers of perſons put to the ſword. It is ſaid, that Peter killed ſeveral of his own ſoldiers to ſtop the carnage; and ſhewing his ſword, told the inhabitants it was the blood of his own ſubjects he had ſpilled to ſave them.

From Narva I proceeded to this place. There is nothing worthy of notice on the road, although the diſtance from Narva to Peterſburgh is above 280 Engliſh miles.

Riga is the metropolis of Livonia, in latitude 57. In 1710, the Ruſſians became maſters of it, after a ſiege of three months. The garriſon loſt 6000 men during the ſiege, by famine, ſickneſs, and the ſword; and to ſuch extremities were the inhabitants driven, that

that above 50,000 perifhed in that time.

By the capitulation the magiftracy preferved their immunities, and even, though a garrifoned town, the keys are every evening depofited with them, and they enjoy other peculiar privileges.

When the ice breaks up, about the end of March, it often comes down in fuch pieces as to form banks, and renders the building a ftone bridge on the Dwena impracticable. A fingular bridge of boats has been contrived, fo that perfons walk even with the water, and fhips are there loaded, which is a great convenience.

The trade of Riga is nearly of the fame commodities as Narva, but is more extenfive. The Dutch had the

greateſt ſhare in the timber trade, but that branch has ſome how much decreaſed, and the partition of Poland will alſo affect the flax and hemp trade of Riga.

The Engliſh merchants at Riga live elegantly, and receive their countrymen paſſing that way hoſpitably. There are concerts and plays, but the plays were truly contemptible, being performed by Dutchmen. George Barnwell was played in a truly ridiculous ſtile; cuſtom, however, reconciles every thing.

LETTER XXV.

SIR, Dantzig.

FROM Riga I ſet out in a poſt waggon, and entered Courland. Mittaw, the capital, is but an indifferent town, the frequent abſence of its ſovereign renders every thing dull here. Paſſing by a ſmall town, called Luban, I arrived at Memel.

Memel is a ſmall city, ſubject to the King of Pruſſia, and has a tolerable caſtle; it was taken by the Ruſſians in the laſt war; the trade is not conſiderable, chiefly timber; there is a ſturgeon fiſhery here. A tolerable garriſon is kept here. I obſerved ſeveral por-

traits of officers hanging in the ſtreets, and, on enquiry, found they repreſented officers who had deſerted the Pruſſian ſervice. It ſeemed to me ſingular, that officers ſhould deſert, but conſidering that commiſſions are not purchaſed in that ſervice, it will not be wondered at. Croſſing the river here, I travelled near three days on the ſhore of the Baltic. The ſands here are dangerous, being quick, and no marked road. There are no houſes but the poſt-houſes, and thoſe at a very conſiderable diſtance. One evening, in a ſtorm of ſnow, the waggon ſunk in a quick ſand, and the horſe in the ſhafts was loſt with it; fortunately we were within a mile of the poſt-houſe, which, after much fatigue and riſk, we reached and proceeded to Koningſberg, a large handſome city, where a tolerable trade is carried on. Merchants come here, in winter, quite from

from Moſcow, at a ſmall expence, and purchaſe ſilks, ſtuffs, and other articles, but they are obliged to give ſecurity for their return, through the miſtaken policy of Ruſſia.

There are ſome fine churches here, and the organs are remarkably large and beautiful; there are many Jews here, who deal in every thing; there is a fiſhery of amber near this place, and many curioſities may be purchaſed here in amber.

A good garriſon is kept here; the black, or death huſſars, compoſed part of it, and are, in truth, a formidable and deſperate body, neither giving or taking quarter. Here, as in other parts of Pruſſia, there are many French families, and excluſive of the ſeverity of military government, every ſtep is taken

to render the inhabitants eaſy and their trade flouriſhing.

This place, like Memel, fell into the hands of Ruſſia laſt war, and indeed they will unavoidably fall in every war, being too remote from the places where he muſt retain the principal part of his army. Pruſſia has more to fear from Ruſſia than Auſtria, as they can enter and lay waſte his dominions with little danger and trouble, whereas his barrier to the Emperor is ſtronger, and eaſier maintained; 'tis from this circumſtance that Pruſſia will, probably, endeavour to keep on good terms with Ruſſia.

I ſet out from hence for Dantzig, in a ſledge, and the cold was ſo intenſe as to freeze wine I lay on in a few hours. There are hardly any regular inns on this road. The poſtmaſters, however, being

ing often old or disabled officers, are gentlemen, and polite, but much accommodation is not expected, and, indeed, there is no part of the world where such accommodations are found as in England, or even France.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXVI.

SIR, Dantzig.

DANTZIG is a large and handſome city, the houſes are lofty, and have generally balconies; the city is well fortified with deep ditches, and the outworks are very extenſive, incloſing ſeveral hills which otherways would command the city. One of theſe hills is remarkably fortified, and here it was that Count Munich, in 1734, was repulſed in a deſperate attack he made, loſing 5000 men on the ſpot.

This city has long been looked on with envious eyes by the King of Pruſſia, and he would certainly have poſſeſſed himſelf

himſelf of it, but for the remonſtrances of ſome foreign courts; but although he has in appearance given up that point, in reality, he has ruined the trade of Dantzig, for his dominions ſurrounding it, he levies exorbitant duties on all that goes in or out of Dantzig, by which means the trade will inſenſibly be transferred to Koningſberg and other places, unleſs they ſhould reſolve to treat with him, and put themſelves under his protection—a dangerous experiment with a prince of the King of Pruſſia's turn. This, however, will probably be the caſe. 'Tis not the age of liberty and independence—Luxury and diſſipation have effected what the moſt veteran armies have failed in.

The inhabitants are hoſpitable, and the women agreeable. The city ſwarms with

with ladies of eaſy virtue, although the conſequence of intriguing is attended with much expence and trouble, as there is a ſpiritual court here that fines pretty ſmartly; its juriſdiction, however, extend no farther than within the city walls.

The greateſt curioſity in Dantzig is the Great Lutheran Church, above 300 years old. A curious painting in wood, done by Van Eyck, about the year 1400, is ſhewn, repreſenting the Reſurrection; there is great expreſſion in the faces, and the hands are much admired. Our Saviour is repreſented with the ſword of juſtice, and a branch of laurel; on each ſide are the Apoſtles, the archangel Michael is below, as upon earth, in armour. The moſt ſingular figures are, a man with his throat cut, and the perpetrator of it, whom devils are ready

ready to receive. It is ſaid they were brothers, and alſo both painters, and that envy induced one of them to commit the crime.

There is a handſome exchange here, and the arſenal contains a conſiderable collection of arms, but the garriſon is ſmall, and indeed of no real uſe, ſince the town is totally at the mercy of its neighbours.

LET-

LETTER XXVII.

SIR, Berlin.

FROM Dantzig to Berlin the country is but very indifferent; near Dantzig lies the convent of Oliva, famous only for the treaty of 1660, when Charles Guſtavus of Sweden had nearly conquered all Poland.

Five German miles from Dantzig you enter Pruſſian Pomerania; the country here begins to look better, and between here and Stolpe, which is eight German miles, there are ſeveral foreſts of ſhrub oak. Stolpe is a ſmall city, but the inhabitants are numerous, and ſeem induſtrious and thriving; the land about

Stolpe

Stolpe is chiefly corn, with ſome fine meadows. There is always a ſmall body of Huſſars here; and here, as in all the Pruſſian dominions, an exact diſcipline is kept, and the police and civil regulations are kept with the utmoſt exactneſs. There are few or no beggars in Pruſſia; idle fellows would ſoon be ſent to the army, but, naturally, they are induſtrious, cleanly and ſober.

In the road lies Stargard, the metropolis of Pruſſian Pomerania, where there are ſeveral handſome churches; here are numbers of French families, deſcended from thoſe who fled from France at the revocation of the edict of Nantz; great encouragement was given at that time to thoſe who took refuge in the Pruſſian dominions.

Near

Near Angermund, the Margrave of Schwedt has a handſome palace, which ſtrikes the more as there are but few noblemen's ſeats on the road, moſt of the nobility are in the army, or reſide in Berlin.

I was ſhocked to obſerve here ſome malefactors who had been broke on the wheel; at the entrance of all the cities in Pruſſia there are gibbets and wheels, but there are very few executions; the terror cauſed by the ſeverity of the puniſhment, and the good order preſerved, prevent the frequency of robberies or other crimes.

I had bought a coach at Dantzig for twenty ducats, which brought me here, being 250 Engliſh miles, and here I ſold it for nearly that money, ſo that travelling in company is not very ex-

penſive; the carriers in general are ſober and careful, and it is uſual, in this part of the world, to join in prayer and other devotion, in the morning, on the road, and often at other times; religion does not ſeem here the effect of hypocriſy or enthuſiaſm, but the natural conſequence of an early endeavour in parents to inſtil religious motives in their children.

LET-

LETTER XXVIII.

SIR, Berlin.

THE city of Berlin is computed to be 250 Engliſh miles from Dantzig. The entrance towards the palace has a good effect as you paſs the new bridge, where is placed an equeſtrian ſtatue of Frederick William the Great.

The King's palace, which is near the bridge, is a noble building, but not uniform, having been built at different times. His particular apartments are white ſtucco and gilding, which is the prevailing taſte at Berlin; the frames of many of the pictures are ſilver, and with little ornament; the luſtres, which

are

are numerous, are alſo ſilver, and very maſſy; the effect of ſilver is not ſo ſtriking as glaſs.

The arſenal is an elegant building, and forms one ſide of the palace. Here are always kept arms for 10,000 men, and being under the immediate inſpection of the King, it is not to be doubted but that it is kept in perfect order and condition.

Not far from thence is the opera houſe, which is a ſuperb modern ſtone building, the portico is ſupported by ſix pillars, over which is inſcribed

Fredericus Rex Apollini & Muſis.

The ſaloon is lofty, and ſupported by pillars, which rather obſtructs the ſcenery, nor has it a theatric appearance; there are three galleries, and the or-

cheſtra is about equal to the opera in England.

The King has compoſed ſeveral operas; his ſtile in muſic, though learned, is ſingular; his favourite compoſers affect the ſame ſtile, in compliment to their ſovereign, ſo that there is very little variety in their operas.

His Majeſty's favourite inſtrument is the German flute, on which he excels. There is ſuch a mechanical arrangement in all he does, that he regularly plays through about three hundred pieces compoſed for him, without ſeeming more pleaſed with one piece than the other.

The orcheſtra is compoſed chiefly of Germans, who receive but a moderate ſalary, and although he is obliged to open

open his purſe more liberally to the Italian ſingers, it is with ſuch reſerve, that he ſeldom has thoſe of the firſt rate.

There are alſo maſquerades and ridottos here at the King's expence; this, to travellers, gives a ſtriking idea of his magnificence. In time of war, however, there are no operas.

A company of French comedians are alſo ſupported here by the King, the admiſſion is by tickets, which are eaſily obtained; the company is but ſmall, and are but indifferent performers; his Majeſty never honours them with his preſence.

The court of Pruſſia has but little gallantry to recommend it, though it abounds with military gentlemen. The King himſelf is not known to have had

any intrigues; the civil and military arrangements in his kingdom ſeem to engroſs his whole attention. The Queen, whom the King is ſaid never to have cohabited with, owing, as ſome ſay, to its being a match forced on him contrary to his inclinations, or as others pretend, owing to a natural infirmity, lives in a great meaſure retired. The King always treats her with uncommon civility and reſpect, but the peculiar ſituation their Majeſties are in render the court very gloomy.

LET-

LETTER XXIX.

SIR, Berlin.

THE police of Berlin is admirable; there are no rewards for the apprehenſion of robbers, ſo that robberies are ſeldom heard of. The ſoldiers in garriſon are obliged to be at their reſpective quarters early, and the corporals and ſerjeants go perſonally, each night, to every ſoldiers quarters to obſerve his conduct.

Commiſſions in the army are neither bought or ſold; the ſimple ſoldier may become a General, nay it has frequently happened, and a nobleman's ſon, whoſe inclination it is to go in the army, muſt

do the real duty of a ſoldier for ſome time before he can procure a commiſſion; promotion is gradual, provided merit follows.

The revenues of Pruſſia being but ſmall, it would be a matter of aſtoniſhment to find what a prodigious army the King maintains, did we not know the œconomy of his diſburſements. The officers, when too old for ſervice, are provided with places in departments that require little or no attendance, ſo that there is no expence of half-pay; his private expences are moderate; his wardrobe conſiſts uſually in two ſuits of regimentals; the expences of his table, by contract, is but about 100 dollars a day, excluſive of wine. The Engliſh Court Calendar would certainly appear to his Pruſſian Majeſty as an incredible romance.

There

There is one circumſtance that makes the King very popular, which is the facility with which he is applied to; any perſon may write to the King with freedom, and he will receive an anſwer in writing, with as much regularity as from a merchant. A gentleman at Memel ſhewed me a letter from his Majeſty, thanking him for a preſent of ſturgeon, which the gentleman, who farmed a fiſhery, ſent him; wrote in polite, though conciſe terms.

Letters wrote to his Majeſty are opened by himſelf only, ſome he anſwers perſonally, ſome he refers to particular perſons, who dare not neglect a moment the buſineſs they are intruſted with.

Should a perſon be oppreſſed by a nobleman, or ſhould he refuſe to diſ-

charge his debts to a tradeſman in a reaſonable time, he need only inform his Majeſty by letter of it, who will perſonally enquire into the affair, and give a proper redreſs to the injured party.

It is well known that the King has ſpies in every court, who are not even known to his miniſters at thoſe courts; by this means nothing eſcapes him.

The Pruſſian code of laws are ſimple and plain; the whole may be comprized in a couple of ſmall volumes; the laws are ſo plain as to prevent ſuits, and, what is a material advantage, no ſuit can depend a longer time than twelve months, in the uſual courts undecided; ſhould that happen, the King decides it.

It muſt be owned that the laws of England are admirably calculated for juſtice, and that the trial by juries is an ineſtimable privilege, but the delays, the chicane, or as the gentlemen of that profeſſiion more emphatically expreſs it, *the glorious uncertainty of the law* is ſuch, that many thouſands are deprived of the juſtice they are entitled to; if, in lieu of enacting new laws, five hundred were burnt annually, in a few years we ſhould underſtand each other better, and juſtice be better adminiſtered.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXX.

SIR, Berlin.

THE trade of Pruſſia is become conſiderable, and will be more and more extended by the partition of Poland, his Pruſſian Majeſty having reſerved the moſt valuable part of that country to himſelf, and by the different duties and regulations he has made in his new acquiſitions, the trade of Dantzig, formerly ſo conſiderable, will be totally at an end, unleſs they will ſubmit to the Pruſſian yoke.

The King of Pruſſia has taken infinite pains to encourage the ſettlement of foreigners in his dominion. They

are on the ſame footing with his natural ſubjects, in every reſpect, and may eſtabliſh themſelves freely; and, as a further encouragement, ſums of money are frequently advanced to perſons who propoſe to introduce new manufactories in his kingdom, without intereſt, under the inſpection of perſons appointed by his Majeſty, and the principal has been often relinquiſhed, when induſtry and integrity have appeared in the borrower.

It is ſuppoſed that one-third of the inhabitants of Berlin are foreigners, chiefly French. The free exerciſe of all religious tenets contributes greatly to encourage emigrations from France. It is ſurprizing, that in a country where in other reſpects induſtry is cheriſhed, that government ſhould be ſo weak as to baniſh, as it were, the moſt

uſeful

uſeful ſubjects on the ſcore of a difference in religious worſhip. 'Tis to that fatal error in politics England is indebted for the art of weaving ſilk, hat-making, and other branches of uſeful and profitable knowledge. The wings of bigotry ſeem, however, now clipt in moſt countries, by which circumſtance not only trade and commerce will flouriſh, but the ferocity of war ſubſide; for it is more than probable, that where Ignorance and Enthuſiaſm diſappear, Peace will eſtabliſh her pleaſing reign.

The Roman catholics have one of the handſomeſt churches in Berlin, and the preſent King affected to ſhew them ſome particular marks of favour, inſomuch that the late Pope wrote to him a letter of thanks; and lately he invited the exiled Jeſuits to reſide in Si-

leſia,

leſia, judging rightly, that they would not come empty handed, and that as long as they conducted themſelves as peaceable ſubjects he had nothing to do with their diſputes or tenets.

There are ſeveral conſiderable manufactories eſtabliſhed in Berlin, particularly of gold and ſilver lace, and broad cloth; in lace they excel, their cloth, as yet, is but indifferent; the King, however, wearing it himſelf, few perſons wear any other.

Sileſia is the prime part of his dominions; vaſt quantities of linen are exported from thence. The houſe of Auſtria, who loſt that country, ſtill look with an envious eye on it, and, if ever a war ſhould break out between theſe two powers, Sileſia will be the bone in contention.

To

To a philoſopher, if ſuch characters are in being at preſent, it would appear incredible, that in Europe there are not leſs than one million of ſoldiers kept up by the different powers, and entirely ſupported by the ſweat and labour of others; not only they are kept at an immenſe expence, but the world is deprived of their labour and toil. What a public benefit would ariſe if one half of them were employed in cultivating the land, which, for want of labourers, now lays waſte.

Two motives, perhaps, induce the preſent monarchs in Europe to keep up ſuch vaſt armies: the jealouſy they entertain of each other, and the encroachments they gradually make on the liberties of their ſubjects. By a military power ſubmiſſion is obtained. The revolution in Denmark, Sweden,

and other places, ſhew that arbitrary power is the darling paſſion of monarchs.

The Auſtrian and Pruſſian armies are, perhaps, nearly equal in numbers and diſcipline; but the Ruſſians may now be conſidered as the arbiters of Germany, ſince it is evident, that their conjunction with either power muſt overwhelm the other. The Auſtrians may, perhaps, repent the having introduced the Ruſſians in the laſt war, as the court of Berlin ſeems to be on good terms, at preſent, with the Ruſſian court.

Such armies cannot long lay idle—the partition of Poland gave them ſome employment, and, in ſpite of France and Spain, thoſe three powers have

have but to agree in the cabinet on the partition of the Ottoman dominions in Europe, and the Turks muſt ſubmit.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXXI.

SIR, Berlin.

THE late King of Pruſſia had a regiment of tall men, which he collected at a great expence, moſt of the German Princes aſſiſted in the forming this regiment, by ſending him, without ceremony, any overgrown ſubject they met with. The loweſt ſize in the regiment was ſix feet ten inches, Engliſh meaſure, many ſeven feet; I ſaw one at Potzdam who meaſured ſeven feet two inches. The King was fond of reviewing and ſhewing this regiment; it is ſaid that on ſome occaſion, Lord Hyndford being preſent, the King could not but aſk him his opinion of them, and whether an

equal number of Britiſh troops would beat them. Lord Hyndford replied, he could not pretend to ſay that, but that he believed half the number would try, at leaſt.

The preſent King, when young, was fond of birds, his father not thinking that amuſement ſuitable to the heir of the crown, one day let them fly; the Prince was extremely vexed, and told his father, that if ever he came to the crown, he certainly would diſperſe his great birds in the ſame manner, which he punctually did, giving them, however, ſome ſmall penſions, or providing for them otherwiſe.

His Majeſty, who is alſo an humouriſt, being much diſpleaſed with his principal architect, on account of ſome egregious blunder committed in a building,

ding, diſmiſſed him from his ſervice, giving him, however, a penſion, and a handſome ſtone houſe to live in, having previouſly ordered an aſs's head in ſtone to be placed over every window, nor were the ears omitted, that, on enquiry being made by thoſe who paſſed that way, into the reaſon of that ſingularity, the blunders of the architect might not be forgotten. This, perhaps, will be conſidered as too ſevere a ſentence for an error in judgment (tho' you may recollect an Admiral being ſhot for it). The architect, however, lives there to all appearance ſatisfied, hoping, perhaps, that his Majeſty will one day receive him into favour.

There is ſomething of a ſimilar inſtance of puniſhment recorded in the reign of Peter: Major-General Gollovin was ſent by the Czar to Venice, to learn

languages and the art of ſhip-building, but he had ſuch an averſion to both, that he hardly ſtirred out of his chamber in four years reſidence in that city, when he returned, and the Czar found that he did not know ſo much as an Italian world, or how to handle a tool for ſhip-building; his Majeſty to puniſh him, though without any mark of diſgrace, declared him, for jeſt-ſake, ſurveyor of his ſhips, by the titles of *Knees Baas* (Lord Maſter Builder) and ordered his picture to be drawn, with a compaſs and a ruler in his hand, ſurrounded with divers tools, and the different timbers of which a ſhip is compoſed. 'Tis more than probable the King of Pruſſia recollected this circumſtance.

LET-

LETTER XXXII.

SIR, Berlin.

ALL religions are tolerated in the Pruſſian dominions, nay great part of his army are Roman catholics; no jealouſy ariſes on that account, and the King has ever found his army obedient and intrepid, though compoſed of men of all nations and principles.

The regiments in garriſon are obliged to attend divine ſervice on Sundays, be their mode what it will, attended by their officers; and it may be preſumed, that the general good behaviour of the ſoldiery ariſes not only from the ſtrict diſcipline obſerved, but alſo from the

exhortations and pathetic diſcourſes addreſſed to them often in particular.

It were to be wiſhed that in England the ſame regulations were obſerved; it is not very uſual, in London, to ſee either officers or ſoldiers at the pariſh church, probably, from this inattention to the morality of the men, by their officers, ariſes the cauſes of ſo many of them committing all kinds of crimes. There are more ſoldiers tried in number in London, for criminal offences, than of all the inhabitants of Berlin together.

In regard to his Pruſſian Majeſty's own belief, the world, in general, conſiders him as a free-thinker, or, in other words, a deiſt; and ſome works attributed to him confirm the conjecture.

It is a melancholy conſideration to obſerve, that, in general, men of the greateſt ſuppoſed parts, by endeavouring to dive or pry into myſteries, which Providence would certainly have made known to all men, if neceſſary, fall into the greateſt abſurdities, and what adds to the misfortune is, that they are imprudent enough to publiſh to the world their ideas; to raiſe doubts in the minds of weak men, in reſpect to revelation, is certainly criminal, as it can neither tend to their benefit or peace of mind. Lord Ferrers was ſenſible of this truth, and declared, that though he approved of Lord Bolingbroke's ſentiments, he totally diſapproved their publication.

The works attributed to his Majeſty, were wrote at a time when Voltaire was his tutor in religious matters, and as nothing of that kind has been attri-

buted to him lately, it is probable that he has conceived more juſt conceptions in thoſe matters.

In his perſon he appears of the middle ſize, his face full of blood, of a grave aſpect, though expreſſive. The continual fatigue he has undergone has broke his conſtitution very much; he has tried various means of keeping up his ſpirits, for one time he drank plentifully of champaign, at other times ſtrong coffee. Spaniſh ſnuff is the preſent remedy he makes uſe of.

LETTER XXXIII.

SIR,

POTSDAM is the uſual reſidence of his Pruſſian Majeſty, it is ſituated on a branch of the Spree, and of ſome extent; the buildings are handſome, but, excluſive of the garriſon, there are very few inhabitants, and the graſs even grows in the ſtreets. Notwithſtanding the endeavours of his Pruſſian Majeſty to people his country, by encouraging emigrations from other places, it is in general but thinly inhabited.

Here his Majeſty retires to unbend his mind; the palace is but ſmall, but elegance itſelf, more particularly his ſtudy;

ſtudy; in every room you find harpſichords, or other muſical inſtruments; his guards are uſually quartered here, and the officers dine at the palace at the King's expence. There can be no finer regiment than the King's guards, they are in number near 2000, and what is ſingular, meaſure from five feet nine inches to ſix feet, they are well cloathed, and of all nations; their manœuvres and evolutions are ſurprizing, and they fire ſo quick that it is hardly credible.

His Majeſty generally dines with company. There is a room with a table ſo contrived as to ſink through the floor to place the diſhes on it, and by a ſpring it aſcends; a plate is removed in the ſame manner. The King ſometimes dines or ſups here with ſome particular perſons, and the intention is

to be private, and to have no ſervants privy to the converſation. Secrets of the utmoſt conſequence have often become public through the channel of ſervants.

There are many fine ſtatues in the garden, particularly a Neptune and Amphitrite, the garden is but ſmall, but well laid out; the apartments are well furniſhed; the throne in the audience chamber is ſuperb; indeed I muſt obſerve, that I have no where ſeen ſo mean a throne, or furniture, as in the palace of St. James!

The Pruſſians ſeem, in general, happy and content; they are, 'tis true, in a ſtate of ſubjection, but the regulations are ſo wiſely conceived, and ſo well and impartially put in force, that the whole community feels the advantage of them;

no one ſet of perſons can trample on its inferiors; the eaſy redreſs to be found on any occaſion charms the vulgar, and the great are taught to conform to the laws without murmuring. After all it may be a doubt, whether the ſubjects of an arbitrary prince, who devotes his time and thoughts in truly promoting their benefit, are not, in reality, as happy as thoſe, who in a free ſtate as they are called, are harraſſed by ten thouſand laws, which are often as oppreſſive as the moſt direct arbitrary power would have invented.

LET-

LETTER XXXIV.

SIR, Magdeburg.

FROM Berlin I came here by a kind of ſtage, being the firſt I had met with in the Pruſſian dominions; the roads are alſo good, and proviſions reaſonable.

In 1631, Magdeburg was ſacked and burnt, and the inhabitants put to the ſword. Count Tilly, the Emperor's General, was the man who uſed this unpardonable ſeverity.

There is a remarkable occurrence ſaid to have happened at this ſacking, that 1200 young maidens drowned themſelves in the Elbe, to preſerve their chaſtity

chaſtity from the violation offered by the ſoldiers. The King of Pruſſia alſo mentions this anecdote, and adds, that theſe examples are admirable, but rare. It is, however, to be hoped, that the circumſtance is not altogether founded in truth; certain it is, that the moſt horrid crimes were committed, and that few eſcaped but thoſe who ſhut themſelves up in the cathedral.

Magdeburg is a city of conſiderable trade, goods are brought from Hamburg by the Elbe, and pay here a toll. It is, perhaps, worthy noticing, how rivers are taxed; the current which ſeems to glide only for public good, yet meets reſtraint from every prince whoſe territories happen to form its banks, nor can we object to this, when we recollect that in England the rays of the

the ſun are alſo taxed; in ſhort, at preſent, nought but the air can boaſt its liberty.

It is ſaid that Magdeburg was founded by the Emperor Otho, in the year 930, and there remains a ſtatue of him in the great ſquare; theſe are anecdotes of conſequence only to antiquarians.

The preſent city is handſome and well inhabited, and by numbers of French; the fortifications are ſingular, no leſs than ſix deep ditches ſurround the place, and the works are ſo low that at a diſtance they are not perceivable, and the town ſeems open. The citadel is remarkably ſtrong; I was told that a General, an able engineer, was confined there, who had betrayed his truſt, and ſent plans to the Auſtrians.

The

The King, who knew his ability, had, in lieu of taking his life, confined him here, where he was well treated, and employed in contriving and planning different works for his Majeſty.

I am now quitting the Pruſſian dominions, where I have reſided ſome months with much ſatisfaction, both at Berlin and Magdeburg; the inhabitants are civil and friendly, proviſions and lodging are reaſonable and convenient. Travellers paſs through the Pruſſian dominions with perfect ſecurity, nor are the towns infeſted with the idle or diſſolute. The ſoil of Pruſſia is but barren; induſtry, however, enables the huſbandman to live as comfortably as thoſe who reſide in more fertile climates. Every encouragement is given to the mechanick and manufacturer, nor is the merchant

chant forgot in the judicious arrangement of public benefit.

In regard to political affairs, the Pruſſian court differs from all others; we hear of no inns or outs, or parties combining to thwart the meaſures of thoſe who are the acting miniſters. The farce of calling councils to debate on what is already determined on, is a practice unknown here. The King, indeed, hears the opinions of his cabinet, but determines himſelf. Penſions and places are not given to extort the ſanction of any one. In Pruſſia the King guides his council; in other countries the council guide the King. In Pruſſia the King is the Atlas, on whom the proſperity of his kingdom reſts; in ſome other countries the King is but a cypher. It is ſaid, that in his convivial moments, he ventures

to rally the conduct of his brother monarchs, nor is he wanting in epithets to mark their peculiar characters. The late Elector of Saxony was called the Porcelaine King! The foibles of the preſent race of ſovereigns furniſh him with too many opportunities of exerciſing a ſatirical turn.

It is a melancholy conſideration to reflect, that this kingdom, on the demiſe of the preſent King, will, probably, feel the effects of war, like the ſtag at bay. He ſeems to defy his foes, but his ſucceſſors will find it difficult to maintain his conſequence with his neighbours. Sileſia the Emperor ſighs for! his late acquiſitions in Poland are yet defenceleſs, nor can the moſt ſanguine hopes of his ſubjects remove the apprehenſions of the conſequence of his death.

LET-

LETTER XXXV.

SIR, Brunſwick.

PASSING through Helmſtet, where there is above 200 ſtudents, ſupported in part by the Duke of Brunſwick, I arrived at Wolfenbuttle; there are many groves of oak in the road, which is pleaſant and romantic.

The city of Wolfenbuttle is but ſmall, and the houſes are lower than uſual in Germany. The fortifications are neat, but not ſtrong; and, indeed, the preſent mode of bombarding ſeems to render old fortifications of little uſe.

Brunſwick is a handſome city, the ramparts and walls are lofty, and kept in good order, but it would not ſtand a ſiege of many days.

The arſenal was formerly a church, and now contains a number of canon, ſome very large, and a quantity of ſmall arms, but they are not kept in the ſame good order as they are at Berlin.

There is a ſingular mortar piece on the ramparts, weighing 90 tons, it throws a bomb of a thouſand weight. There is alſo at Moſcow a number of canon of a moſt extraordinary ſize, but the mode of caſting theſe extraordinary, but uſeleſs machines, is now over.

For a ſmall court, there is no one where a traveller finds more ſatisfaction than

than at Brunſwick. The Duke and his family generally dine in public, and admittance is eaſily obtained. There ſeemed to be above thirty ſervants in waiting, and the diſhes were numerous. The Germans have generally good appetites, nor is the bottle forgot.

Being fair time, Brunſwick ſeemed alive; merchants from all parts flock there. Payments are made at Brunſwick fairs for goods bought at others, as Leipſig, Frankfort, &c. and ſo *vice verſa*. There is a handſome playhouſe here, where pantomimes are performed in the ſame manner as in London, which I have not obſerved any where elſe. There are alſo concerts and maſquerades.

The Brunſwick family are numerous, but they have not been fortunate in their

marriages or connections. The Britiſh monarch takes alſo the title of Duke of Brunſwick. The troops of Brunſwick are well cloathed and clean, and may amount to 10,000 men; but their diſcipline, or appearance, is not equal to the Pruſſian or Auſtrian troops.

It ſeems an abſurdity in thoſe German princes, who have ſmall territories, to maintain ſuch bodies of troops, ſeeing they are of no uſe, not being ſufficient in number to defend their territories againſt the leading potentates, ſhould they attack them. 'Tis true, indeed, they have uſually been maintained by other powers, but this policy ſeems to be in a great meaſure given up. France and England, the uſual paymaſters, ſeem equally diſpoſed to drop ſo ridiculous a ſyſtem; nothing, therefore,

therefore, but cuſtom and pride, can induce theſe petty ſovereigns to keep troops in time of profound peace, for oſtentation only.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXVI.

SIR, Hanover.

FROM Brunſwick to Hanover is about ſeven German, or forty Engliſh miles, through a very indifferent road.

Nothing is more troubleſome to a traveller than the paſſing through different principalities in Germany, as there is continual objections to the money you have, nothing is generally current but ducats, but as they are weighed at every port you are continually loſing. The Jews intermeddle in this buſineſs, and, as uſual, are great uſurers. The uſual mode of travelling in Germany is by

by poſt waggons, which are open, and the paſſengers expoſed to all weathers, and travel day and night. There is no remedy, unleſs you have a carriage of your own, which is alſo attended with many inconveniences.

Hanover is ſituated on the river Leina, and has a communication with the Weſer, by a branch of the Aller. The town is but tolerable, and by no means to be compared with Berlin, or even Magdeburg; the trade of Hanover is trifling, there being no manufactories or any ſtaple commodity. The environs are generally ſand or heath.

The abſence of the Elector renders the court of Hanover exceeding gloomy. The regency, indeed, affect a mock dignity. There are French plays and concerts gratis; nay, an open table is

kept

kept in the palace, which is a large building, but antient, the furniture is chiefly tapeſtry, ſome of which is rich.

The troops of Hanover are well cloathed, and the guards have a reſemblance to the Engliſh. The officers are generally men of family and rank; they ſeemed to remember the cold treatment they met with in England when they were ſent for, with ſome acrimony. Play ſeems their idol, they are never without dice or cards in their pockets, and hardly drink a diſh of coffee without playing for it.

Party matters formerly carried ſome Engliſhmen ſo far as to treat Hanover with the greateſt contempt, and the Hanoverians do not mention England with any marks of cordial friendſhip. They ſeem to conſider the abſence of

their

their Elector as a diſadvantage to them, and this is probably true. It was formerly ſuppoſed that conſiderable ſums of ready money were ſent from England to Hanover, but this is very dubious. One thing ſurprized me, which was to find, that the currency of Hanover was not to be met with in Hanover. I was informed there was only ſufficient coined every year to pay the ſalaries, and was ſhewn ſome as a curioſity. Whether this is owing to its intrinſic value being above the coin of the neighbouring Princes, I do not know, but this circumſtance ſeemed ſingular.

I could not forget viſiting the celebrated gardens of Heren Hauſen, about two miles from the city, through an avenue of trees; the road is ſandy. Travellers who have formed brilliant ideas of this place will be very much diſap-

diſappointed; the houſe is large but plain, the furniture middling, with a few good pictures; the whole hardly to be put in competition with a tolerable ſeat in England; the garden is large, but the ſtile antiquated. There is a kind of rural theatre, trees having been planted ſo as to reſemble one, which has a good effect, but, I believe, it is never made uſe of. The water-works are rather in diſorder; the taſte for *jet d'eaux*, and other fancies in that art is on the decline, and, indeed, the expence is conſiderable.

The late Duke of Newcaſtle, who was very zealous for the honour of England, when he attended his late Majeſty there, made a brilliant figure, he affected to outdo his maſter in his method of travelling, and parted with his money ſo liberally on the road, that he

he will be remembered for a long time in thoſe places he paſſed through.

I muſt add, that Hanover does not ſeem to me to be a place a perſon would wiſh to reſide at, who wiſhes for ſociability or converſation; there is not that aſſemblage of different nations which generally conſtitutes variety in diverſions and amuſements. The Germans are uſually proud, and more ſo when in a military capacity. A merchant, tho' ever ſo reſponſible and well-bred, is by a German Baron (perhaps not worth a ſhilling) eſteemed but a pedlar.

LET-

LETTER XXXVII.

SIR, Hamburg.

THE uſual route to Amſterdam is by way of Oſnaburg, but my inclination led me to this place. Zell is the firſt place I met of any note, and, indeed, the road to that place was thro' a barren heath, neither was the accomodations extraordinary. Zell is now devolved to Hanover, and is famous for the ſtud of horſes kept there, which is numerous, and the horſes in general beautiful, and kept at a great expence. The Germans, in general, are fond of horſes for ſhew.

From

From Zell to Zœhrendorf is eight German miles, the length of way ſeems ſtill longer by the barren appearance of the country; the villages are few, and thinly inhabited; indeed, except in Ruſſia, I never met a more barren and wild country; taking courage, however, I purſued my journey, and croſſing the Elbe at Harburg, I arrived at Hamburg; here the country appeared delightful, and the gardens, which ſurround the city, pleaſant to a great degree.

Hamburg ſtands on the north ſide of the Elbe, in the dukedom of Holſtein; its ſituation for the inland trade of Germany renders it a place of great opulence. The Britiſh factory are poſſeſſed of many privileges, but their proportion of the trade ſeems on the decline.

There

There are a conſiderable number of ſugar-bakers here, who are furniſhed with raw ſugars by the French, who not having a conſumption for their ſugars, export great quantities, and at a lower price than can be afforded in England, owing to the prodigious conſumption there, occaſioned by the general uſe of tea, a faſhion not prevalent in France.

Not only Hamburg ſerves great part of Germany with refined ſugars, but what is ſingular, England is provided with the manufacturers of ſugar from Germany, the buſineſs, which is laborious, not ſuiting the diſpoſition of other nations.

Callicoe printing is another conſiderable branch of buſineſs, chiefly in common goods. The merchants here greatly encourage

encourage the consignments of goods from other places, by advancing sums of money on the goods 'till sold, and it is not unusual here, to borrow on a warehouse of goods by delivering up the key.

The government of Hamburg is composed of four Burgomasters, under them are twenty-four Senators, ten of which are bred to the law, the rest are shop-keepers or merchants. The Senators are chose for life. Civil suits are determined by the senate, but the Burghers join in the determination of criminal matters.

There are five parishes in the city of Hamburg, and when a new tax, or the continuation of old ones is to be fixed, the Burghers become of consequence. Fifty of each parish must be present at

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the aſſembly appointed for this purpoſe, and what is ſingular, the city gates are ſhut during this ceremony.

The King of Denmark has ſeveral times endeavoured to obtain ſums of money of the city of Hamburg, on frivolous pretences, and has, in part, ſucceeded; the city of Altena, which is not a mile diſtant from Hamburg, and belonging to the Danes, is a perpetual ſource of jealouſy to the Hamburghers.

Altena is the aſylum of debtors and criminals, who fly from Hamburg and the neighbouring places, and is a large town, though not handſome. In Hamburg the eſtabliſhed religion is the Lutheran. It is ſingular, that Roman Catholics and Calviniſts are looked on with jealouſy and caution in Hamburg, while

while Jews are indulged. In Altena, on the contrary, all religions are ſuffered, notwithſtanding the endeavours of his Daniſh majeſty. Altena has not the appearance of opulence, there are but very few merchants of any note, thoſe poſſeſſed of wealth eſteeming their property more ſecure in Hamburg, as a hanſe town, than in Altena, as under the King of Denmark.

The garriſon of Hamburg ſcarce exceeds 1500 men, but their gates are ſhut early, which is a great inconvenience to the inhabitants who have gardens, or fond of country excurſions, nor can admittance be obtained on any pretence, whereas Altena is not walled.

Hamburg, ſince the navigation of the Baltic is become ſo general, has naturally ſuffered in its trade, and even

with England it decreaſes, the introduction of Ruſſia linens having affected conſiderably that of Germany. The rapid progreſs of our Iriſh manufactures, and the additional duties on lawns and Hollands, have alſo contributed to affect this part of their trade.

The inhabitants of Hamburg are wealthy, moſt of the merchants opulent; they are not parſimonious as in Holland, and they affect much expence and prodigality on the occaſions of marriages, chriſtenings or burials; ſo that it has been obſerved, that where thoſe three circumſtances happened to one family in the courſe of a year, it was ſufficient to ruin them.

LETTER XXXVIII.

SIR, Amſterdam.

FROM Hamburg to Blankeneſs is two German miles, from thence to Cloſter Seven is four German miles, from thence to Otterſburg is three more, and from thence to Bremen is three German miles. In this whole route there is nothing that gives the traveller any ſatisfaction or pleaſure, the country being heath, woods or moraſs, and thinly inhabited, the accommodations very indifferent, and the expence of travelling conſiderable. The laſt two or three miles as you approach Bremen is ſandy, but theſe diſagreeable and tireſome routes only ſerve to heighten the

pleaſure travellers receive at their arrival at a city of any note, more particularly if they have any letters of recommendation, which, indeed, a traveller ſhould always be provided with, as not only he has the pleaſure of ſpending his time more agreeably, but he is leſs liable to be impoſed on.

Commercial people have, in this reſpect, a conſiderable advantage over private perſons, or gentry, as they, probably, realize profit with delight. This part of the world would furniſh no entertainment to a young traveller, who ſeeks no other end in his travels than amuſement or gallantry, maſquerades or operas; nor would he, in Weſtphalia or the neighbouring countries, be the admiration of the ladies, merely for being a coxcomb. Such perſons do very wiſely, in beginning their

their tour, by ſhutting their eyes till they arrive at Paris, and endeavouring to ſleep between city and city till they arrive at Rome or Venice.

Bremen is ſituated on both ſides the river Weſer, over which there is a bridge; it is computed to be about twelve German, or ſeventy Engliſh miles from the ſea, and might carry on a more conſiderable trade, was the river navigable for large ſhips up to Bremen; they are, however, a thriving people, the inhabitants are computed at 30,000 or upwards; they carry on a more conſiderable trade with France than with England, being ſupplied with raw ſugars and other Weſt-India commodities from thence. It may be worth obſerving, how much more beneficial the Weſt-India trade is to the French than to the Engliſh,

ſince they export from France two-thirds of what they import, for which they receive a conſiderable balance in ſpecie, whereas our importation of ſugar and indigo are hardly equal to our own conſumption; it is true, indeed, that while we had Guadaloupe, and the other French ſugar iſlands, that trade fell into our hands, to the great loſs and detriment of France; and, in a commercial view, it was an unpardonable error to reſtore thoſe iſlands for the ſake of Canada, of no value to England, who poſſeſſed too much there already; nor, in a political light, was it judicious to remove thoſe who were a thorn in the Americans ſide, ſince it would have attracted their attention from other concerns.

There is nothing particular in Bremen, but the figure of a man in armour

in

in the market-place, nearly fifteen feet high, repreſenting a general, who, 'tis ſaid, ſaved the city, when in danger, from the Swedes; and a church, called the Great Dome, there is a vault under it where there are bodies, who, 'tis ſaid, have been depoſited there above a hundred and ſixty years, tho' not diſcovered above fifty years ſince. The linen they are dreſſed in is entire, reſembling tinder, their ſkins parched, but their features diſtinguiſhable. Some whimſical people have wiſhed to be buried there, in hopes of remaining in the ſame ſtate, but this is not permitted.

A mile from Bremen you re-enter the Hanoverian dominions, and at about three German miles diſtance is Wildeſhuſen, in that government. At about the ſame diſtance is Kloppenberg, in the Biſhop of Munſter's territories.

Paſſing

Paſſing on to Loenningen you come to Haſſelune, ſtill belonging to the Biſhop, who is Elector of Cologne; theſe are all mean places; in the laſt there is a ſmall garriſon, of no other uſe but to live on the induſtry and ſweat of the inhabitants. I now came to Lingen, which is ſubject to the King of Pruſſia; this is a clean, well-built town. I could not help obſerving the difference between thoſe places ſubject to eccleſiaſtic and ſecular princes; in the eccleſiaſtic territories, trade and commerce ſeems annihilated, in lieu of manufactories we find convents; in lieu of mills, crucifixes, and in lieu of induſtry, bigotry.

I now came into the dominions of the United Provinces, and arrived at Northorn, and from thence I came to Almello, where there is a manufactory of

of fine Holland; England uſed to import conſiderable quantities, but ſince the improvements in Iriſh linen, that branch declines.

From Almello you paſs on to Daventer, which is a large city, ſituate on the river Yſſel. The tolls here are intolerable; there is a ſtrong garriſon, and the ſhops ſeem well filled with all kinds of merchandize. Leaving Daventer you paſs by Loo, a ſeat of the Prince of Orange, and come to a village called Voorthuſen; and about ſix Engliſh miles further is Amersfort, a conſiderable town on the river Eems, the church is large, and has a curious ſet of chimes. From Amersfort, at about the ſame diſtance, is Naarden, a pleaſant city. Naarden has ſuffered on ſeveral occaſions, being a boundary to the province of Holland; it is ſtill well fortified;

the

the inhabitants were moſtly maſſacred at the revolution of the United Provinces. It has been ſince taken by the French, and retaken by the Prince of Orange.

From Naarden to Amſterdam is about ſix Engliſh miles; the country, meadows and canals. To ſtrangers Holland ſeems in danger of being every hour overflowed, and, indeed, it is by dint of induſtry and expence that the country is ſaved.

The towns in Holland are ſo nearly alike, that I have ſlightly mentioned them to avoid repetition. They are clean and well-built, the churches large and handſome; a ſpirit of induſtry, joined to parſimony, reigns in every Hollander, young or old. It is ſeldom that children impair the patrimony of their

their anceſtors; money is their idol, to obtain which nothing can reſtrain them in the power of induſtry or economy.

Generally ſpeaking, moſt nations have a natural propenſity to wiſh well to their reſpective countries, nay, have an affection for it. This ſympathy is not the marked character of the Dutch, they have been known to furniſh powder to thoſe who were beſieging their own towns, nay, to have betrayed them.

Hoſpitality they have no idea of; ſtrangers are very coolly received, unleſs intereſt is in view, even by the merchants or wealthy people. Charities there are, indeed, many, but they are eſtabliſhed more by neceſſity than otherwiſe.

otherwiſe. Indeed, it muſt be owned, the regulations of their hoſpitals far exceed thoſe in England, or elſewhere.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

SIR, Amſterdam.

ALTHOUGH Amſterdam is now, in every reſpect, one of the firſt cities of the world, its earlieſt beginning is but about 400 years, and not 300 ſince it was walled, ſince that time it has been ſeveral times enlarged. The fortifications are not conſiderable, indeed the natural ſituation of it is the beſt defence it is capable of.

The moſt conſiderable buildings in Amſterdam are the Stadthouſe and the Exchange; the firſt has been ſo often, and ſo amply deſcribed, that I ſhall

juſt obſerve, that the foundations of it were laid in 1648, that it was finiſhed in about eight years, and is ſuppoſed to have coſt 300,000 l.

The moſt ſingular circumſtance of the Amſterdam Bank is, that it differs from that of London, the Bank of London having lent the money ſubſcribed by the proprietors to the government, receive an intereſt which they repay to the proprietors, whereas, in the Amſterdam Bank, they receive only the beſt and pureſt bullion or coin, and pay no intereſt.

Money thus realized in the Bank, becomes of more value than the current money abroad, by four or five per cent. and payments are made in Bank money, by transferring from one man's account to the other, as we do ſtock, for the

bullion

bullion or coin is never refunded, neither do they iſſue bonds or bank notes, which I am ſurprized at, as it would tend to increaſe their real capital by a nominal one, and the mode of transferring is attended with trouble. What their fund in ſpecie amounts to is unknown; ſome talk of thirty millions, but that is hardly true, and, probably, the exigencies of ſtate have drained part of it; for though individuals are rich in Holland, the ſtate is much in debt.

The exchange of Amſterdam is about 250 feet long, and 140 broad, built of ſtone, but not ſo airy and elegant as the exchange of London, though I apprehend the tranſactions to be full as conſiderable.

Amſterdam being entirely a commercial city, almoſt every perſon has con-

 nections

nections in buſineſs, whereas, in London, the caſe is very different; beſides Amſterdam is a Bank for many other countries; all the goods ſhipped from Ruſſia, Sweden, Poland and Germany, are generally paid for through the medium of Amſterdam, ſo that the Dutch lay a kind of tribute on the tranſactions of other countries.

Holland may be called the grand magazine for European and Indian commodities; every article may be purchaſed there nearly as cheap as in the place of their growth, often cheaper, as the provident Dutchman ever purchaſes when articles are low abroad, on ſpeculation. Even the Engliſh funds are regularly bought and ſold there, on *time*, in the Engliſh mode, and they often prove equal to the ſharpeſt jobbers here.

In reſpect to the religion of the inhabitants, the eſtabliſhed faith is Calvin's, but all ſects and modes are tolerated, Lutherans, Catholicks, Anabaptiſts, Jews, nay poſſibly Mahomet would have been ſuffered, had he kept clear of ſtate matters. Of all religions their poverty is certainly the worſt.

There are ſome good cabinets in Holland, and many good pictures to be ſeen, but they are rather conſidered as articles to be bought and ſold, than kept for their merit.

LETTER XL.

SIR, Hague.

THE conveniency of water carriage renders travelling reaſonable and pleaſant in Holland. In leſs than three hours I reached Haerlem; this town is antient, and flouriſhed in 1155; it has been twice burnt, and, in 1573, was taken by the Spaniards, after a ſiege of eight months, who treated the inhabitants roughly, and put the remainder of the garriſon to the ſword. Haerlem is famous for the bleaching grounds about it, ſaid to be preferable to that of any other country. This city lays claim to the invention of printing; this fact yet remains

remains a doubt, and, probably, will ever ſo.

From Haerlem to Leyden is about ſixteen Engliſh miles; this city has a conſiderable univerſity, reſorted to by ſtudents of all nations, who have peculiar privileges. The air of Leyden is unwholeſome, owing to the waters being ſtagnated, not having the benefit of the tides to keep the waters ſweet.

In 1574, it was beſieged by the Spaniards, and defended itſelf five months, when it was relieved by Count Lewis Naſſau; the inhabitants were reduced to the greateſt extremity. The public ſpirit of thoſe times, and the love of liberty they ſhewed, ſeemed to have declined very much in their ſucceſſors.

From Leyden to the Hague the paſſage is three hours. This place may be conſidered as the firſt village in Europe, being an aſſemblage of magnificent houſes; moſt of the Dutch nobility reſide here, and play is carried on to a great exceſs, as not only the ſtates aſſemble, but the foreign miniſters reſide here; it naturally reſults, that diverſion and amuſement reigns here to a great degree. Their concerts are ſometimes good, but their theatric entertainments are very indifferent, being chiefly ſtrollers from other places. The Dutch are the worſt players I ever ſaw, neither is their language adapted to expreſs ſentiment or paſſion.

Some of the beſt regiments in the Dutch ſervice are uſually quartered here, particularly cavalry, which ſtill enlivens the place, but though it is one

of

of the moſt pleaſant places in Holland, rich merchants do not retire there. The Dutch nobility are exceeding proud (though ſometimes poor) the military generally ſo. A blunt Dutchman, with half a million of guilders, would be very little courted at the Hague, if not treated with contempt, ſhould he offer to mix in their parties. They differ in this very much with the Engliſh cuſtoms, where not only merchants, or private perſons of real property, are fit company every where, but where ſharpers of no property, not only find means to be well received at public places, but generally ſtrip thoſe who are ſo polite as to accept of their company.

LETTER XLI.

SIR, Helvoet.

I DID not think to trouble you with any more letters, but contrary winds detaining me here, I ſhall continue to give you my ſentiments of this country.

Recollecting that a hundred years ago Holland was able to vie with England in naval matters, and knowing that Helvoet was one of their principal naval yards, I had ſome expectation of ſeeing, at leaſt, a tolerable fleet in repair; this, however, is not the caſe, there being hardly a dozen men of

of war here, and thoſe not equipped for ſervice.

The general maxim Holland ſeems to have adopted, of taking no part in the diſputes of her neighbours, may, probably, be the reaſon of this relaxation of the States in naval and military affairs. Should, however, France or England force Holland into a war their trade would infallibly be ruined.

Holland is critically ſituated between England and France, her ſubjects having ſo conſiderable a property in the funds of each country, this will ever cauſe thoſe individuals to oppoſe every attempt of France or England, to make them take an active part in any war that may ariſe; excluſive of that, wealth has relaxed the nerves of diſcipline and good government. The Stadtholder,

holder, in caſe of war, would become of conſequence. A great part of Holland deteſt even the name of Stadtholder, and will never give him an opportunity of emerging from that kind of obſcurity he is now in.

The Dutch are certainly not able to defend themſelves in their preſent ſituation, nor can Great Britain, at preſent, afford them that aſſiſtance neceſſary; they ſeem tenacious of liberty, but take their chance for its continuance, they have reſiſted a foreign tyranny to ſubmit to a domeſtic one. Sir William Temple, who knew them well, ſays, "Thus theſe ſtomachful people, who "could not endure the leaſt exerciſe of "arbitrary power or impoſition, or "the ſight of any foreign troops under "the Spaniſh government, have been

"ſince

" ſince inured to them all, in the
" higheſt degree, under their own po-
" pular magiſtrates, bridled with hard
" laws, terrified with ſevere executions,
" environed with foreign forces, and
" oppreſſed with the moſt cruel hard-
" ſhips and variety of taxes ever known
" in any government."

Sir William Temple's idea of Holland, and its inhabitants, is too flattering to be critically juſt—'tis a courtier's language. " Holland is a coun-
" try where the earth is better than the
" air, and profit more in requeſt than
" honour; where there is more ſenſe
" than wit; more good-nature than
" good-humour; and more wealth than
" pleaſure; where a man would chuſe
" rather to travel than to live; ſhall
" find more things to obſerve than
" deſire,

" deſire, and more perſons to eſteem " than to love."

Sir William naturally drew his compariſon from thoſe in a rank above the common, and ſo far he is right; but would he have deſcribed the generality of them truly, he would have added, that they were brutiſh, illiterate, avaricious, jealous, revengeful; poſſeſſed of neither generoſity, feeling or humanity.

I had almoſt forgot to ſay any thing of the Dutch ladies, thoſe of rank and faſhion are well-bred, although their education is neglected; their countenances are rather heavy and unmeaning, their ſhapes indifferent, their teeth in general bad, their complection pale, owing to the moiſt air of Holland.

They

They ſeldom breed after thirty, nor in general ſo long.

But although this picture may not be flattering, juſtice obliges us to add, that they are induſtrious and virtuous; actions of *crim. con.* are unknown among the great, nor are the lower ſort ſo polite as to part with their wives on every occaſion, as good natured Engliſh huſbands do.

There is a natural deſire imprinted in every mortal to return to his native country; delayed by contrary winds, on the verge of treading on Engliſh ground, I feel the truth of the obſervation.

The pleaſures of travelling are certainly beyond common conception; from every nation, from even every circumſtance,

cumſtance, travellers will find many occaſions to admire the conſtitution and comforts of their own country. To a traveller of obſervation, many things appear of conſequence which others eſteem as trifles. Happy will he be on his return, if he can retain and follow the good examples he has met with, and forget the bad ones.

F I N I S.